

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA'S



Manga

OH MY
GODDESS!

PART X
4

HAND IN
HAND
1 OF 2

\$3.50 US
\$5.25 CAN

40
PAGES



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ — Hand in Hand



DIRECT SALES



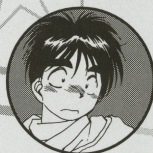
00411

story and art by
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

translation by
DANA LEWIS and TOREN SMITH

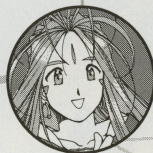
lettering and retouch by
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Cast of characters



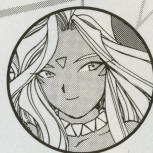
Keiichi Morisato

Nekom Tech engineering student who dialed a wrong number and unwittingly summoned the goddess Belldandy.



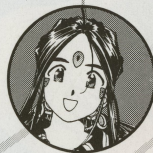
Belldandy

Goddess First Class (Unlimited). Very loving, very kind.



Urd

Goddess Second Class (Limited). Belldandy's big sister. Very sexy, very naughty.



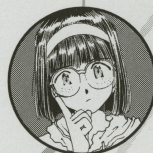
Skuld

Goddess Second Class (Limited). Belldandy's little sister. Very smart, slightly bratty.



Chihiro Fujimi

Former head of Nekom Tech Motor Club and Keiichi's new boss.



Sora Hasegawa

Shy Nekom Tech chemistry student and Motor Club member.



The Almighty

Almighty.

The story so far

College student Keiichi Morisato accidentally dialed a wrong number and summoned the goddess Belldandy! After granting Keiichi's wish that she stay with him forever, Belldandy and her sisters, Urd and Skuld, are living with him — and having plenty of misadventures! In college, Keiichi studies the physics of motorcycle mechanics, and a former student, the bossy and brassy Chihiro, has finally opened her own custom motorcycle shop. This means a new step into a professional career for our favorite Nekom Tech students. But with new achievements come new troubles, and Keiichi always gets the lion's share of trouble...

designer
AMY ARENDTS

editor
MIKE HANSEN

assistant editor
TIM ERVIN-GORE

publisher
MIKE RICHARDSON

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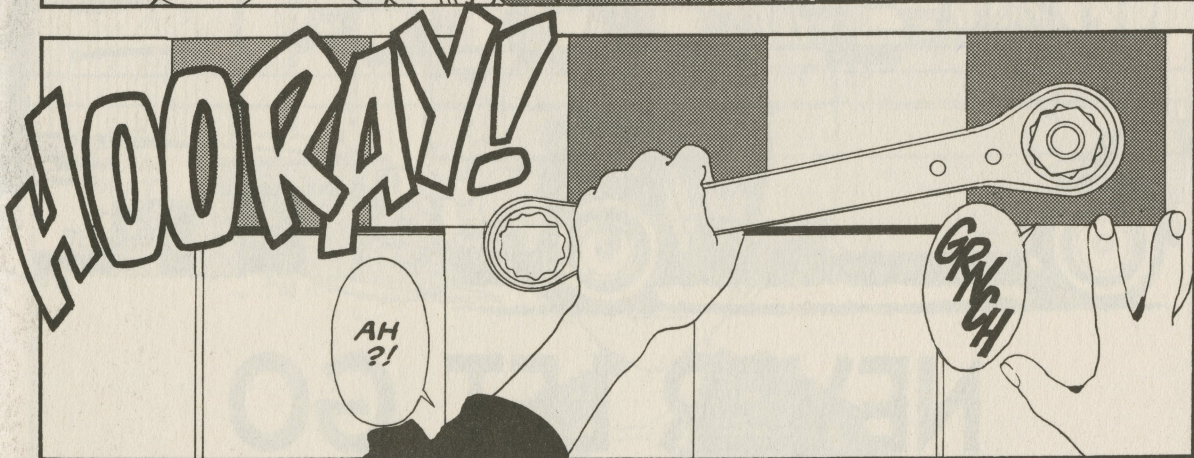
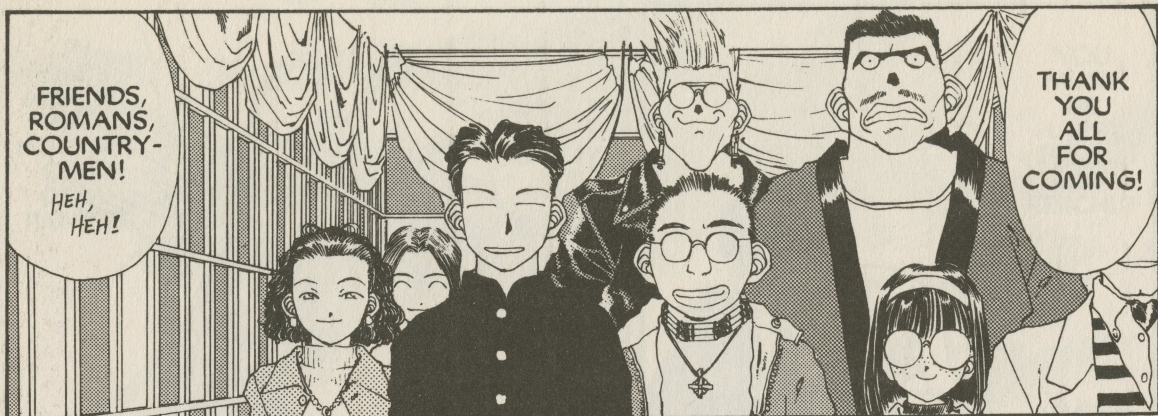
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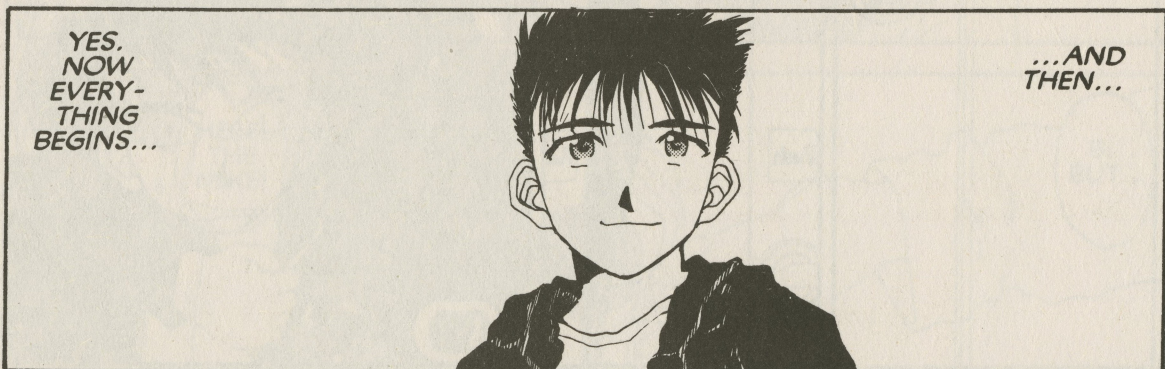
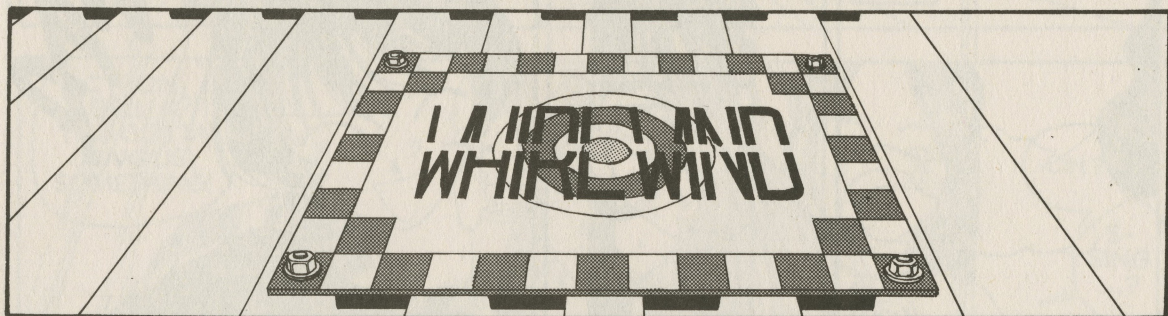
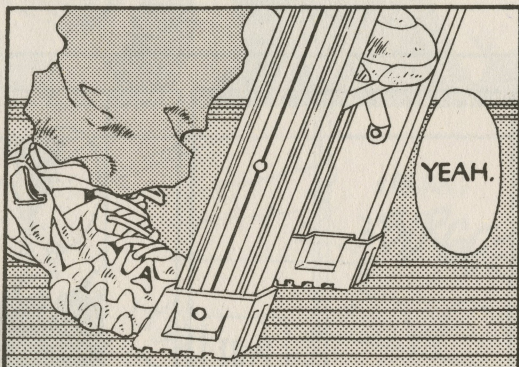
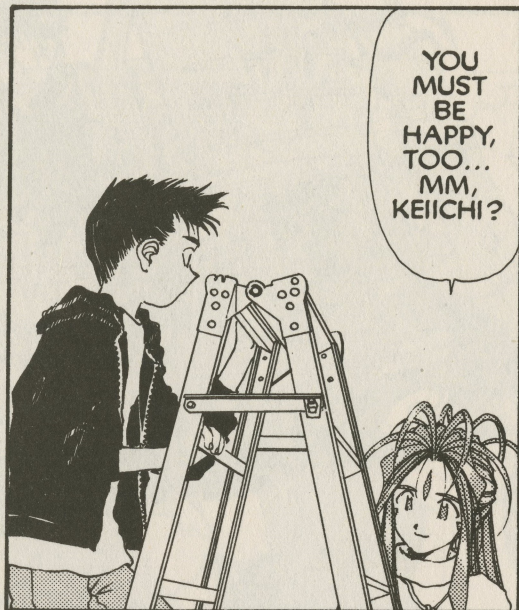
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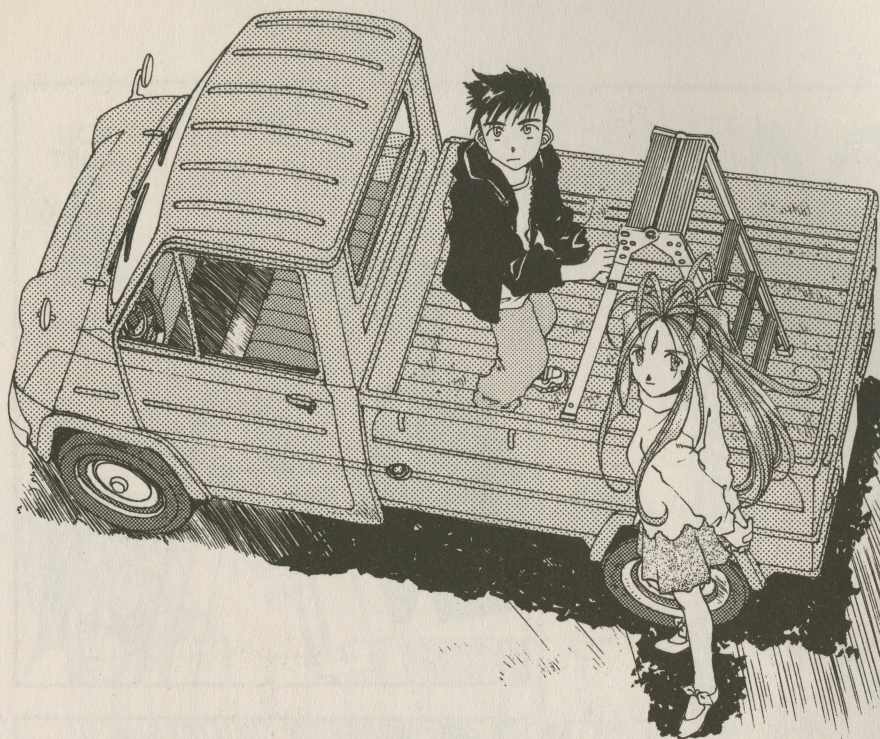


I
ASKED
HER
TO WAIT
UNTIL
WE GOT
THE SIGN
UP!

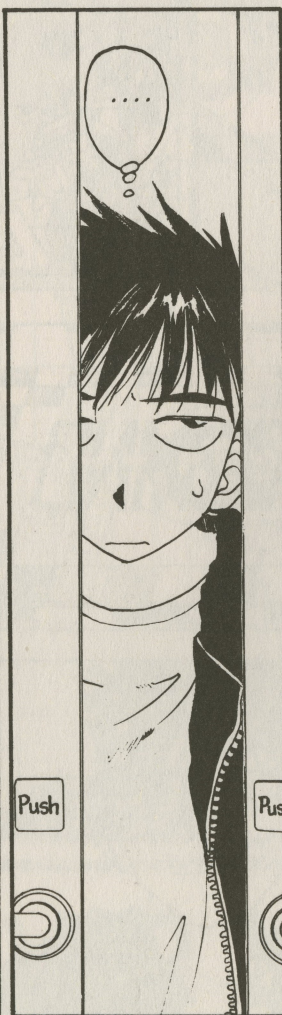
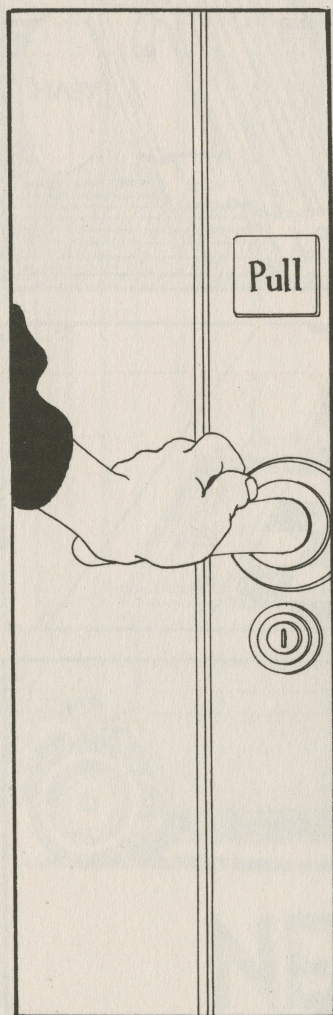


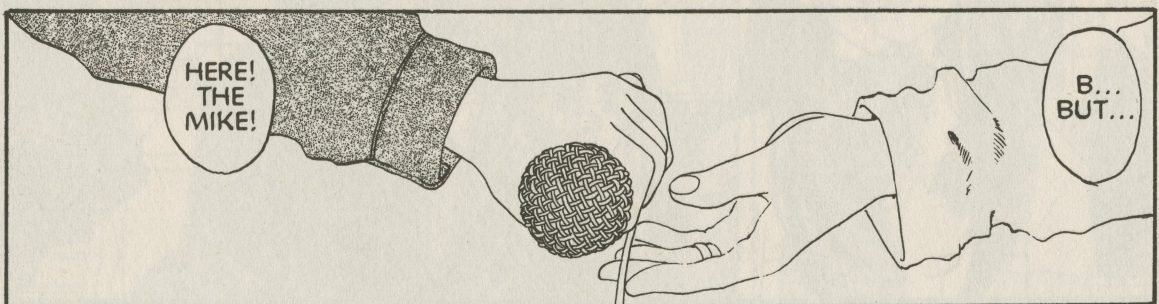
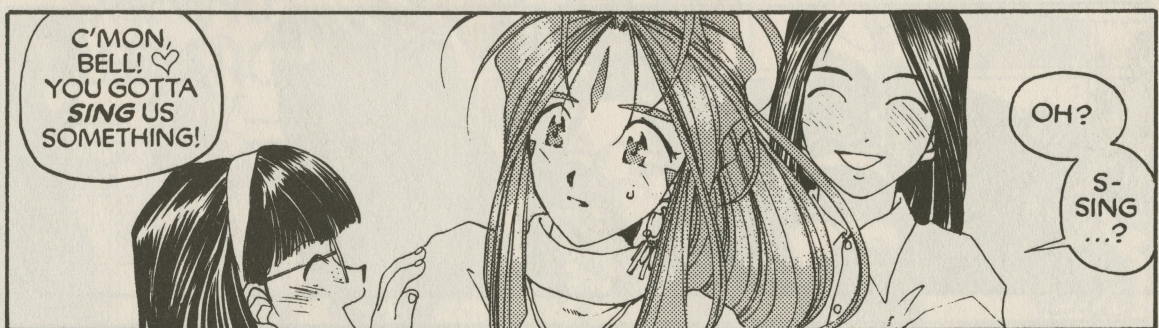
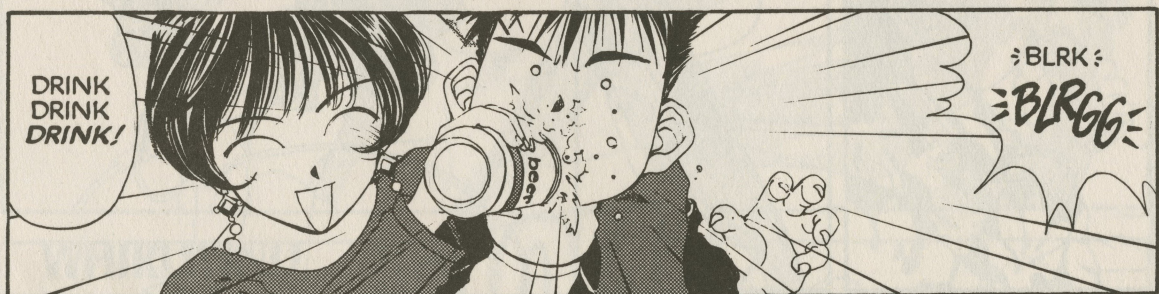
NEVER LET GO

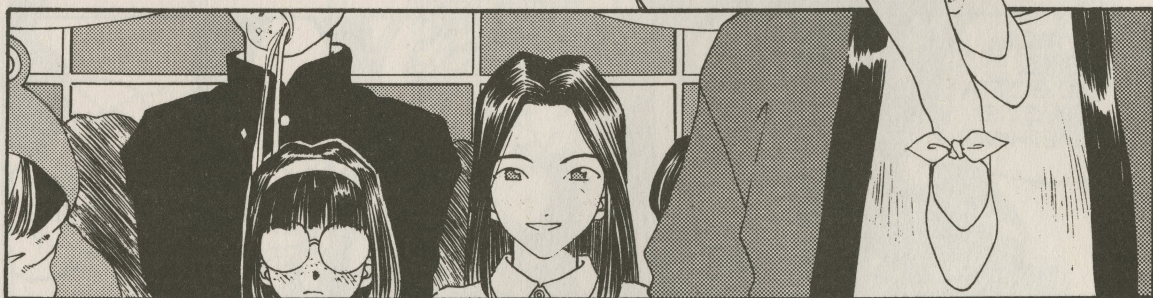
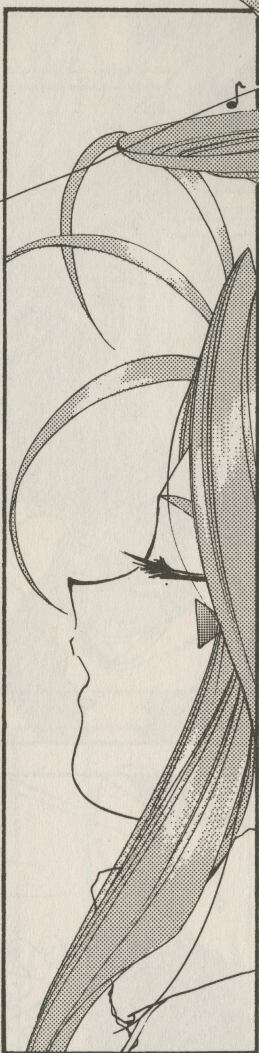
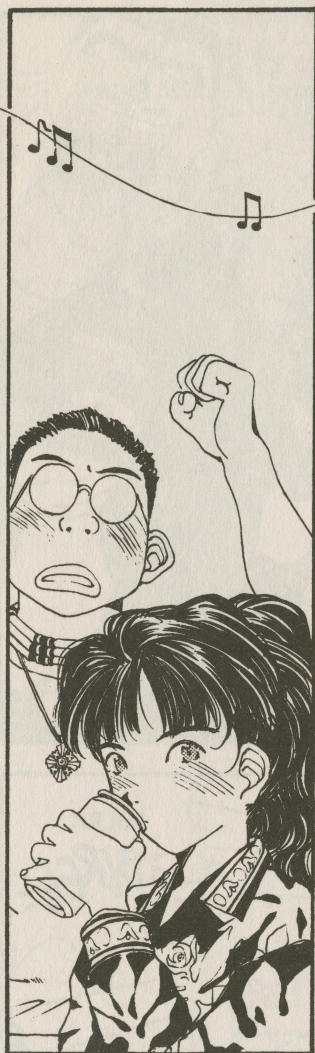


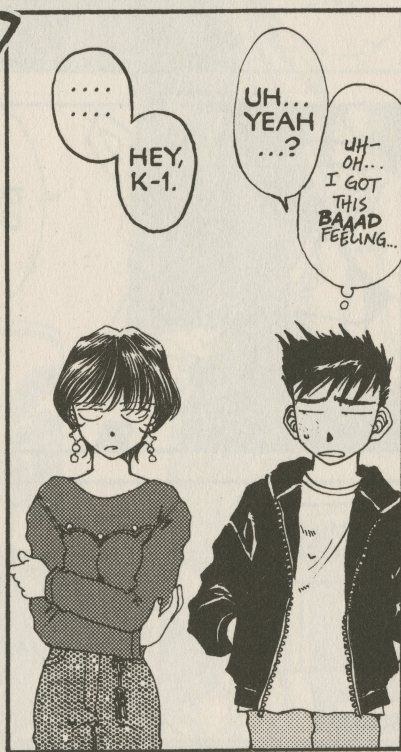
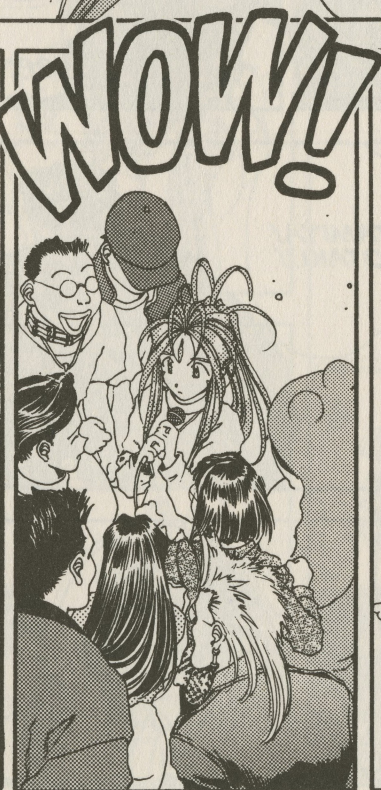
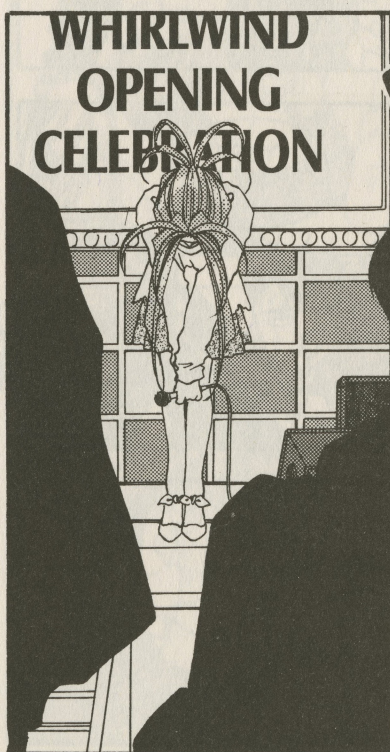
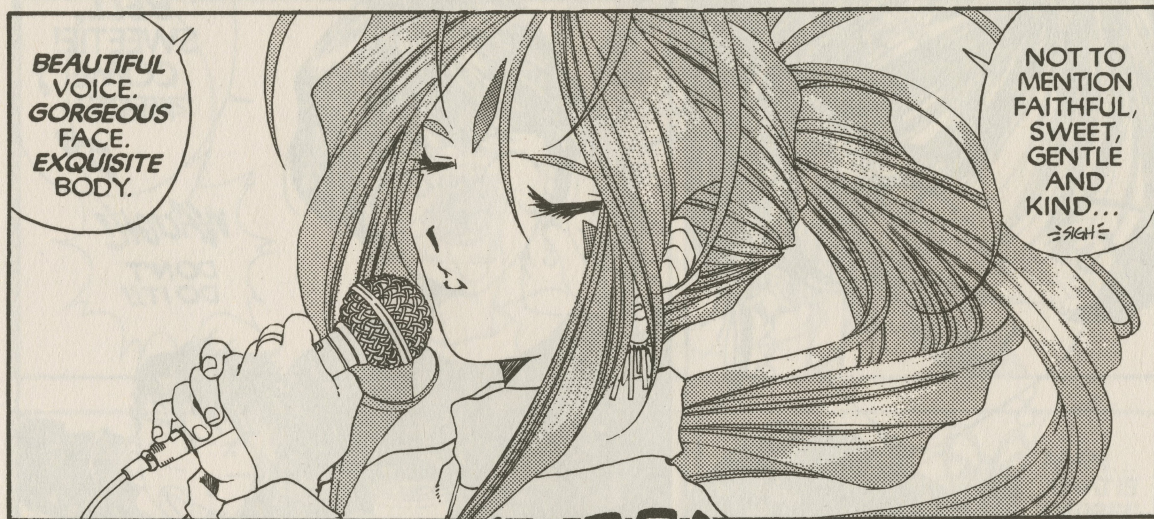
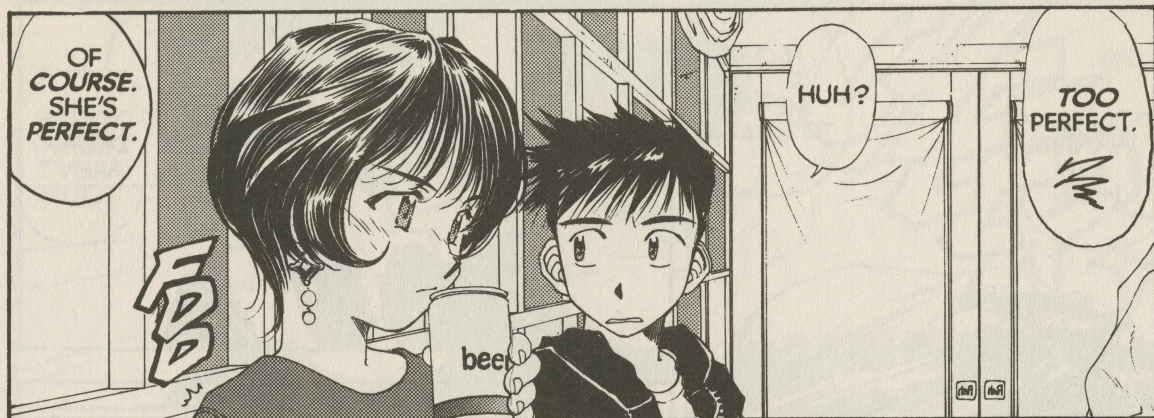


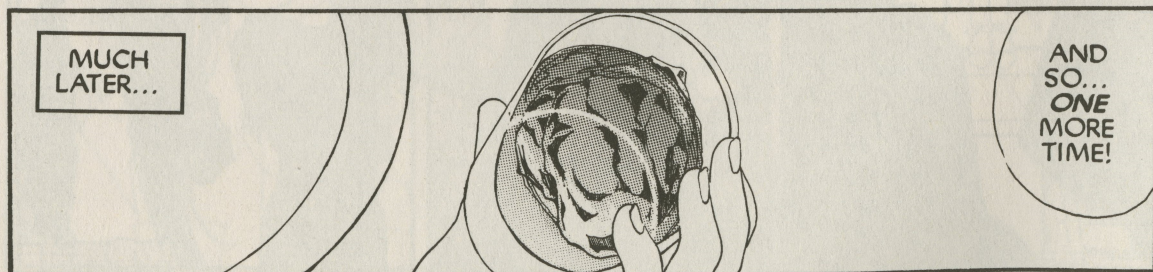
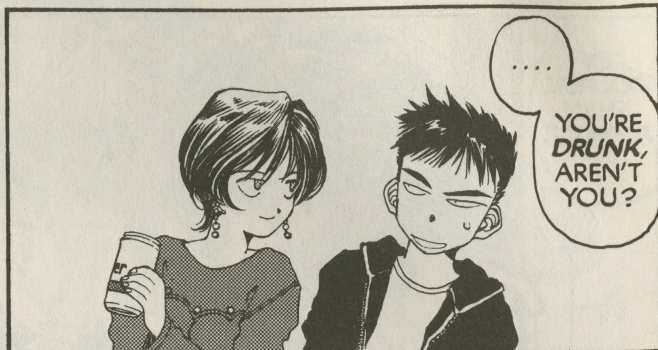
...EVERY-
THING
CHANGES.
STEP BY
STEP...

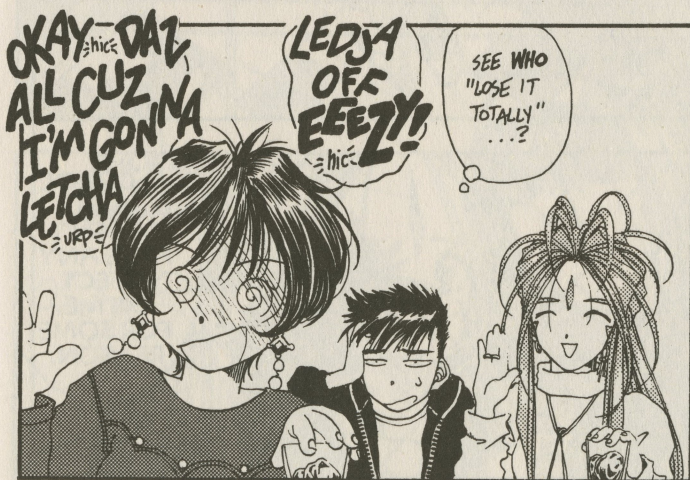
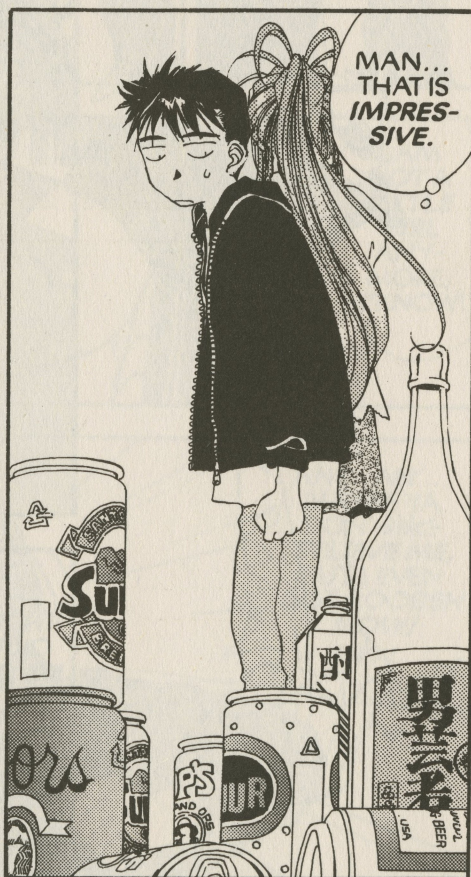
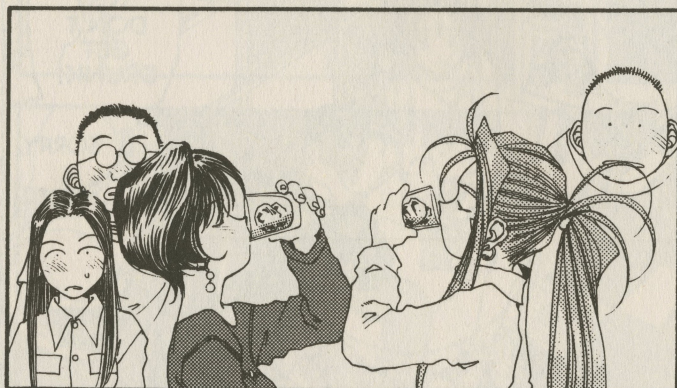
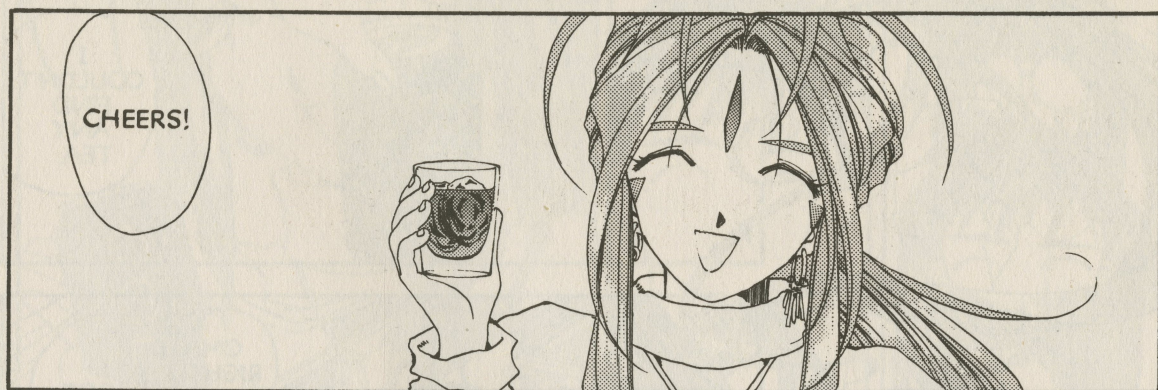
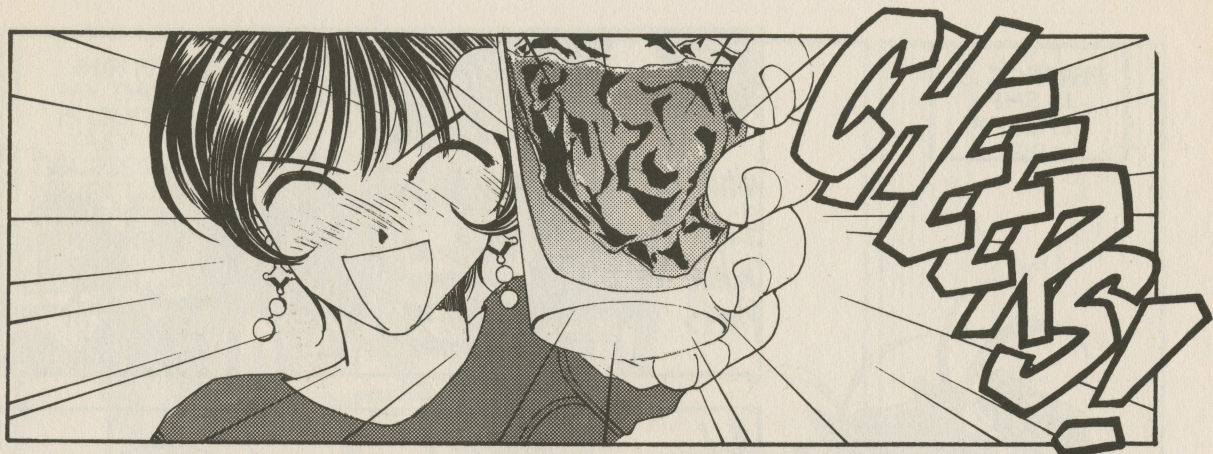












PERFECT...
IS SHE
REALLY?

Whirlwind
fashion
Shihiro
Parts

Best Wishes
to
Whirlwind
from
Saitou
Electronics



HERE.

I
COULDN'T
FIND
ANY
TEA.

THANK
YOU,
BUT...

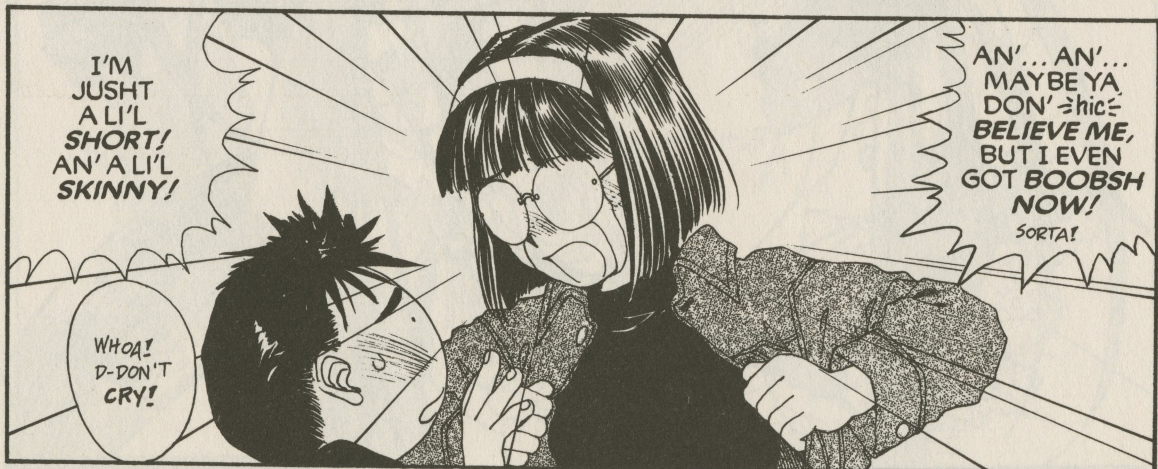
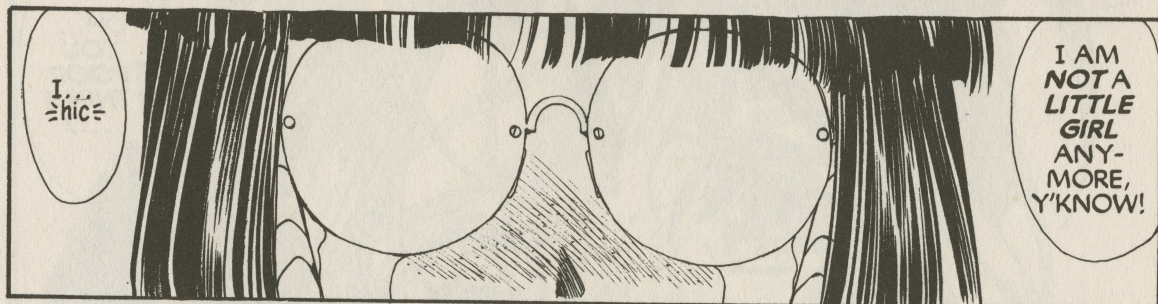
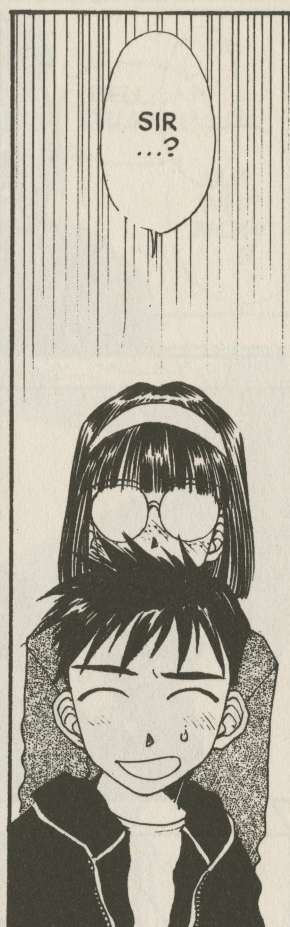
OH,
RIGHT.

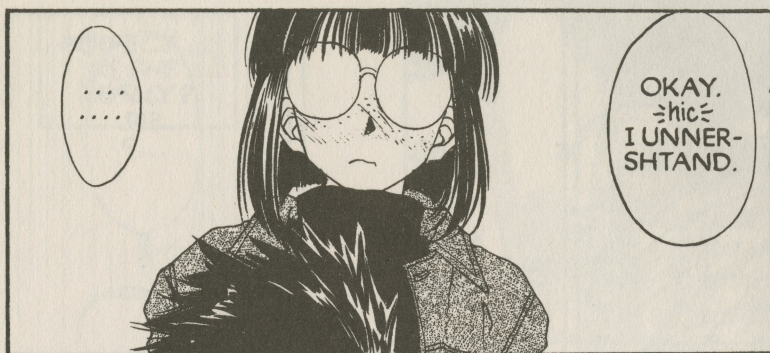
I
FORGOT--
YOU
DON'T
GET
DRUNK.

SORRY.

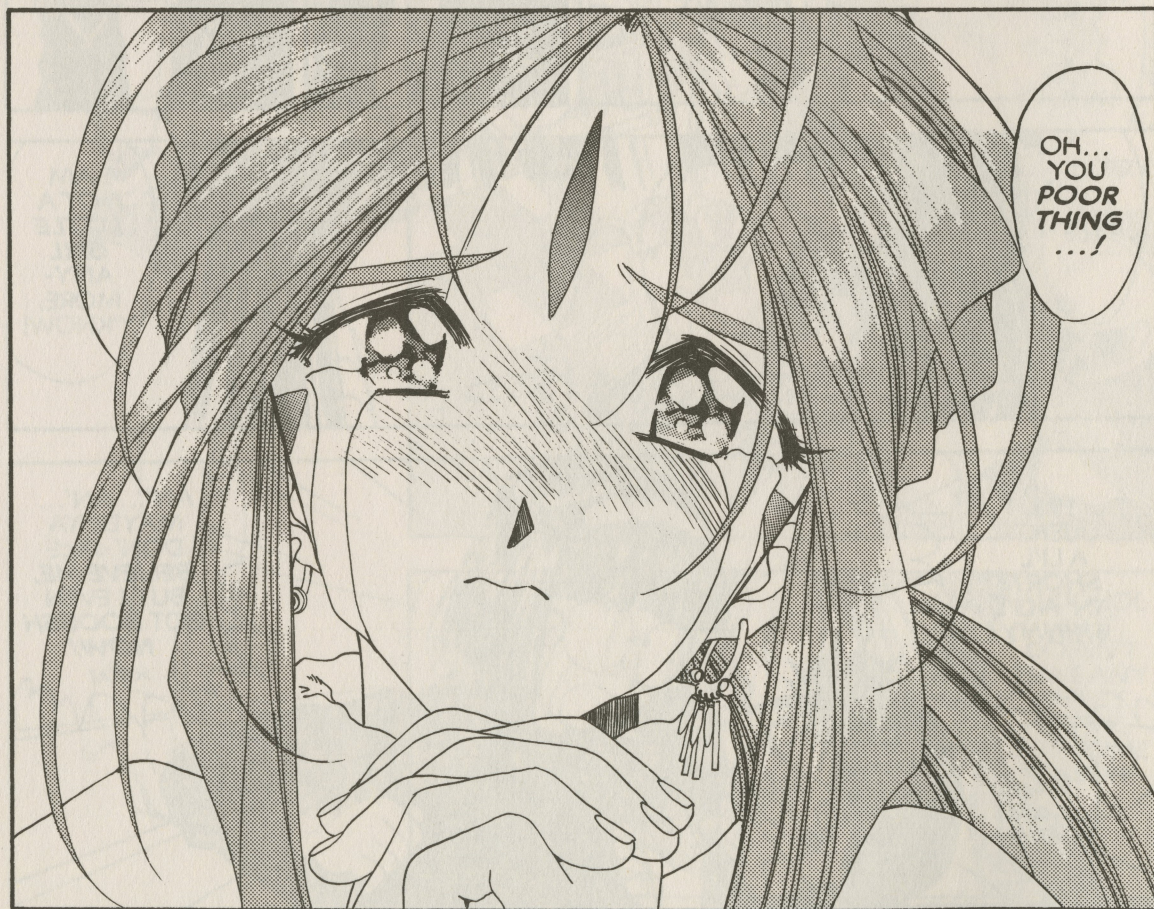
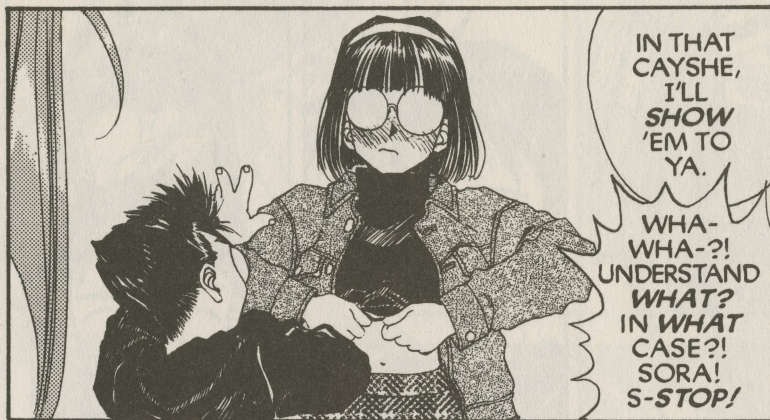
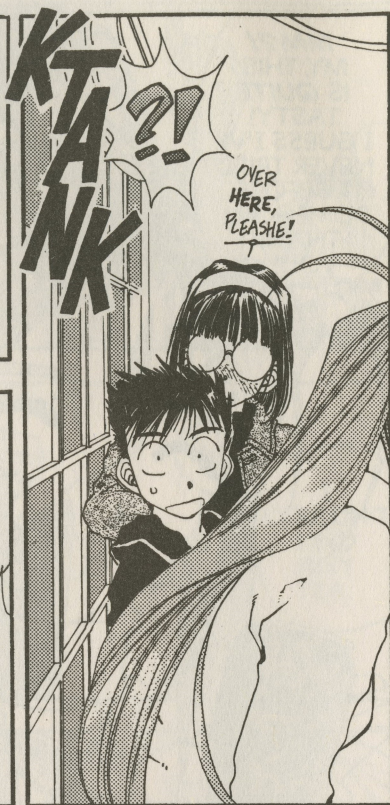
THAT'S
OKAY,
KEIICHI.

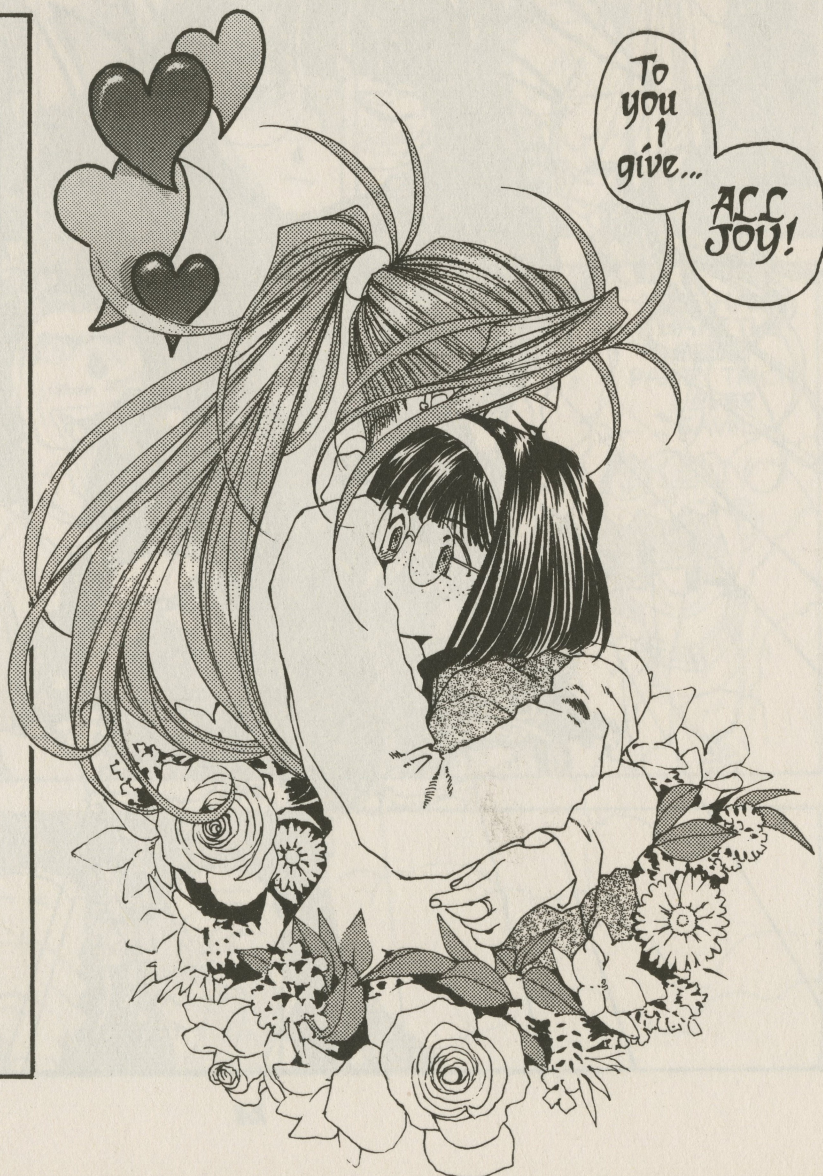
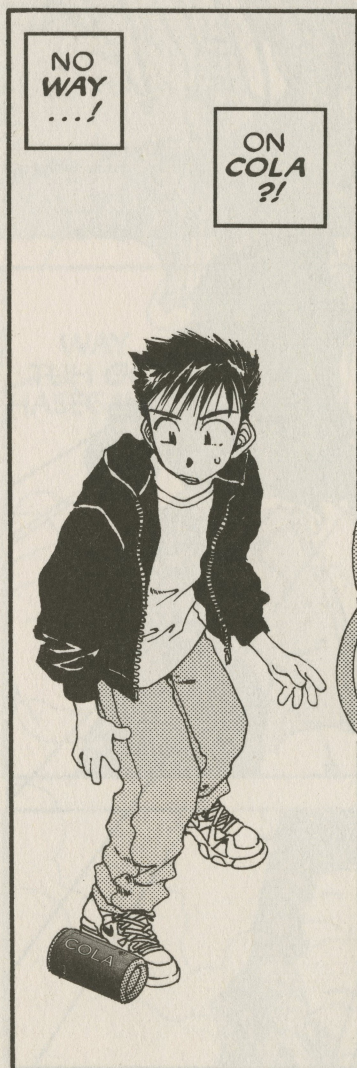
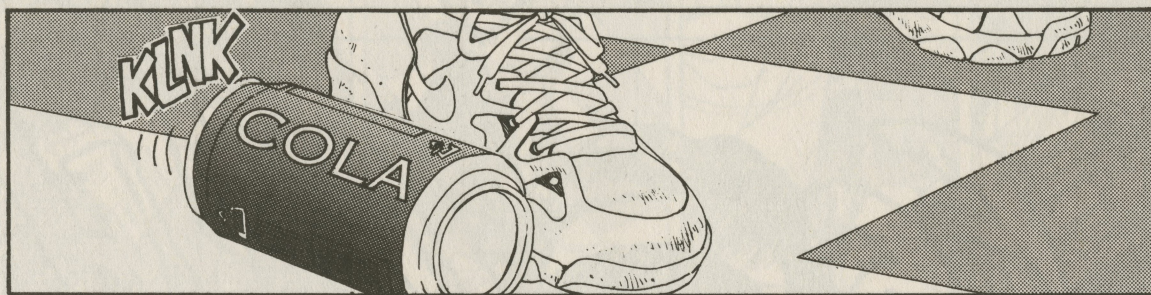
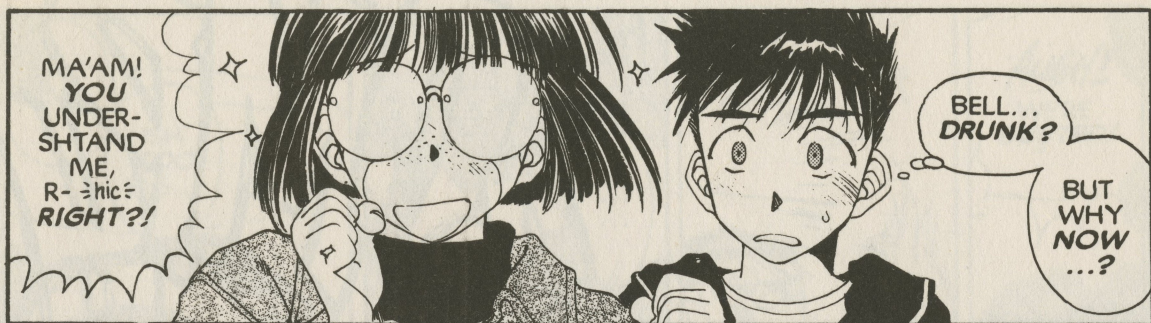
ALCOHOL
JUST
DOESN'T
HAVE ANY
EFFECT
ON ME,
FOR SOME
REASON.

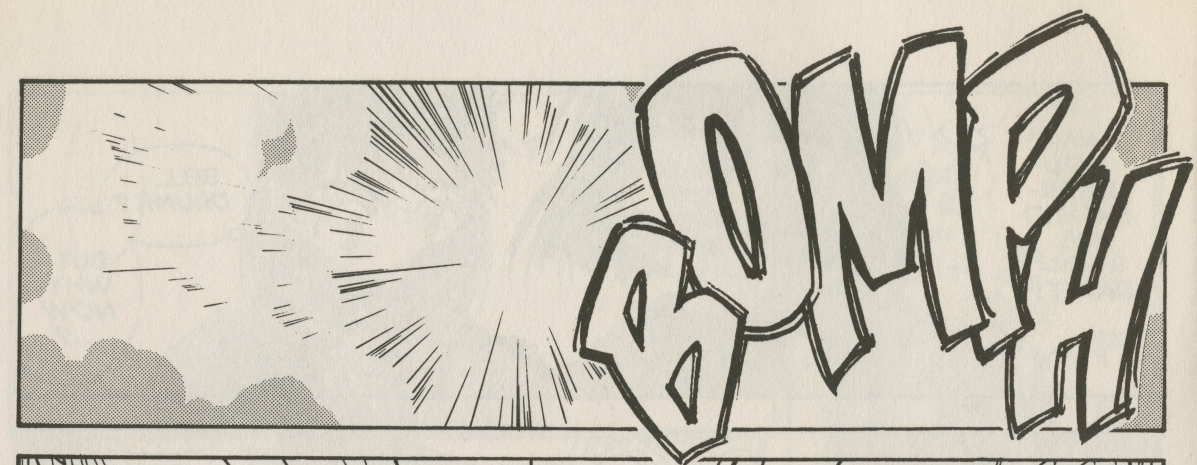


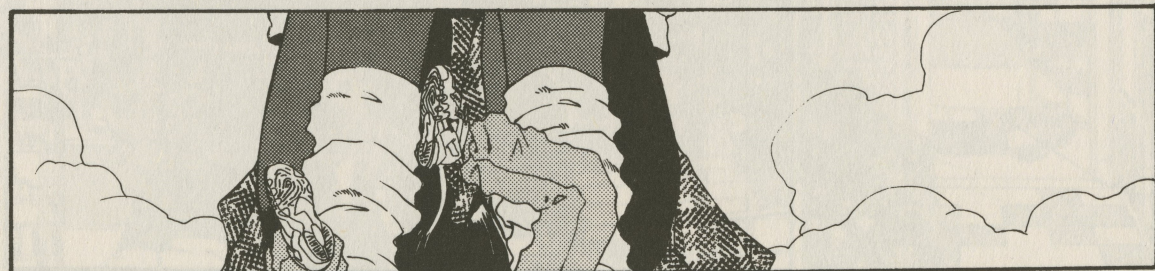
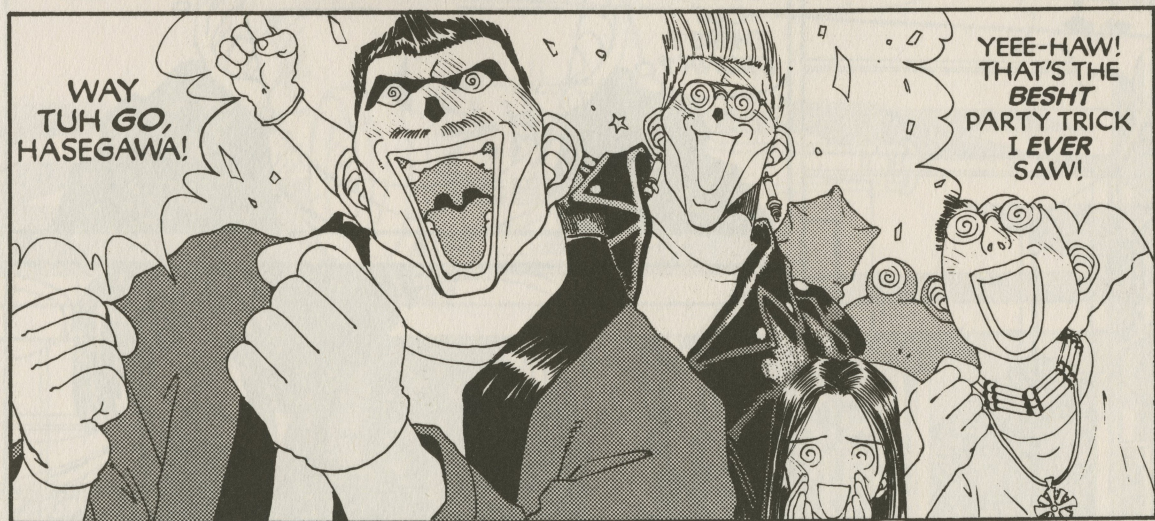
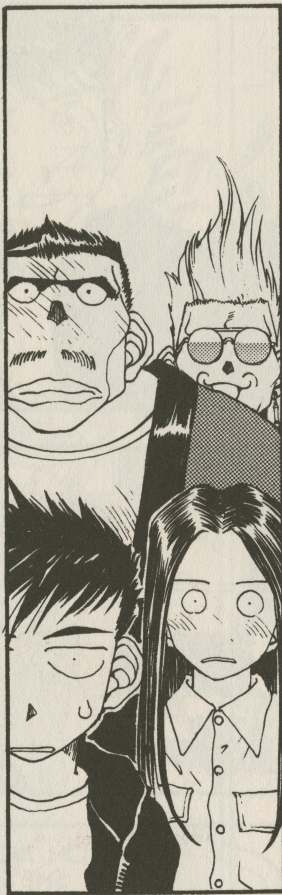
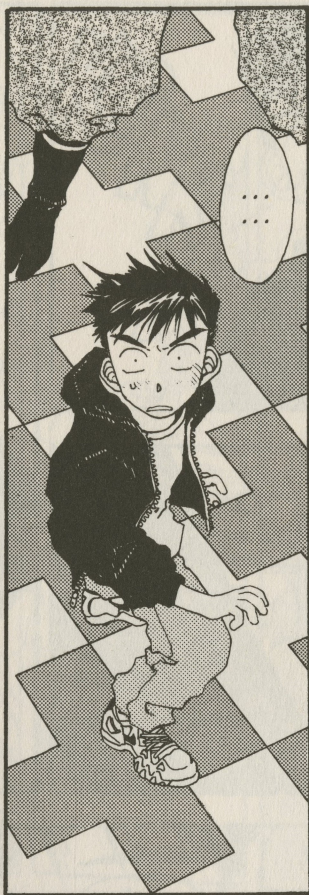
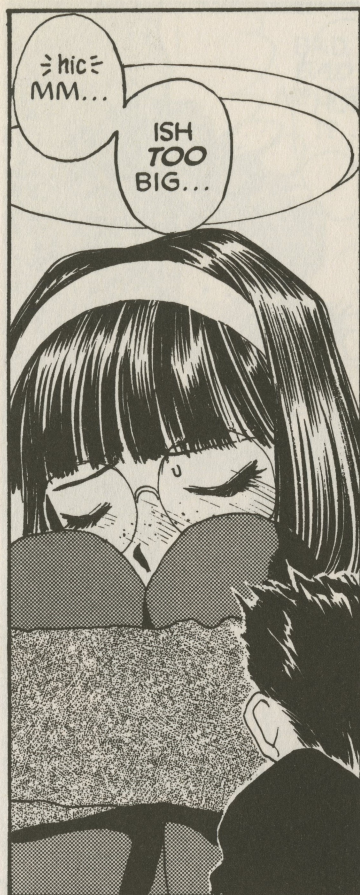


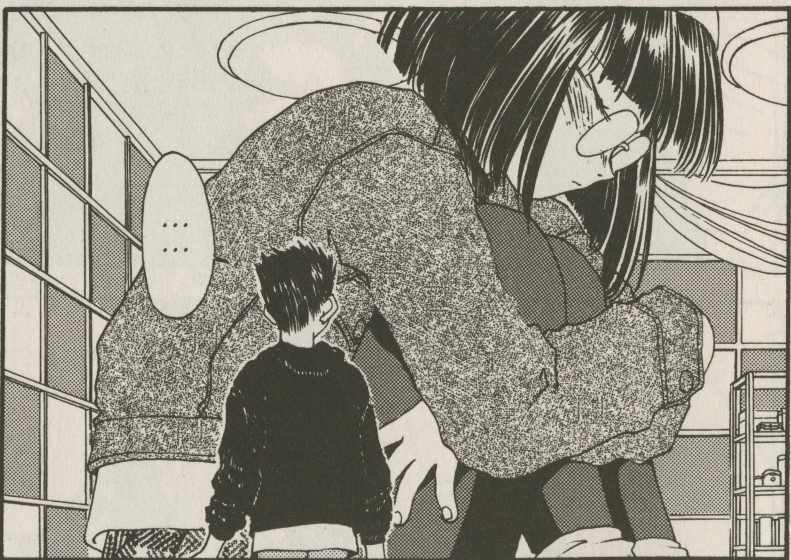
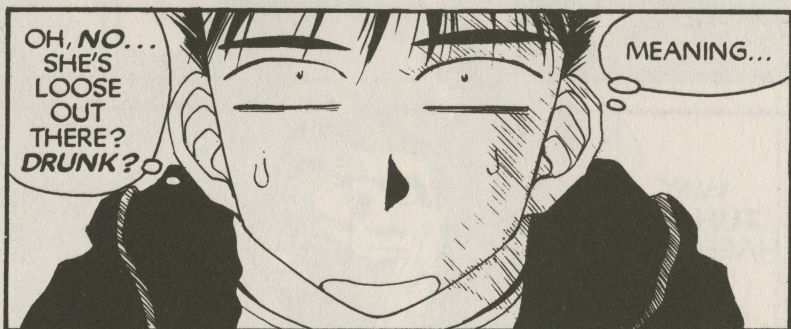
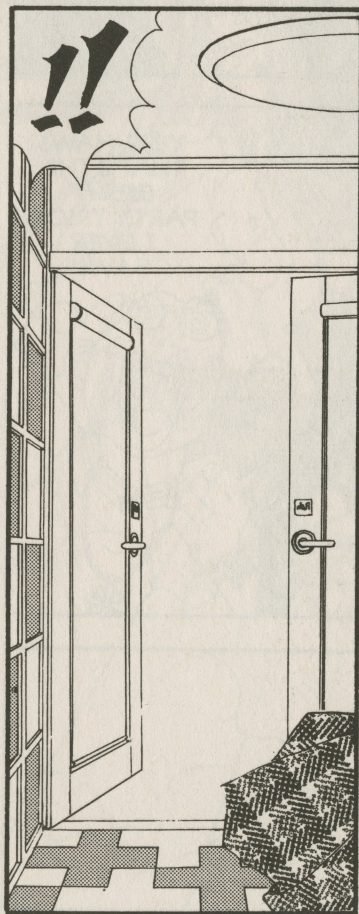
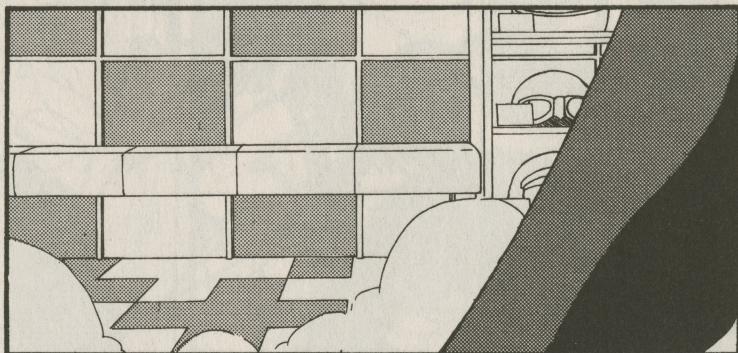
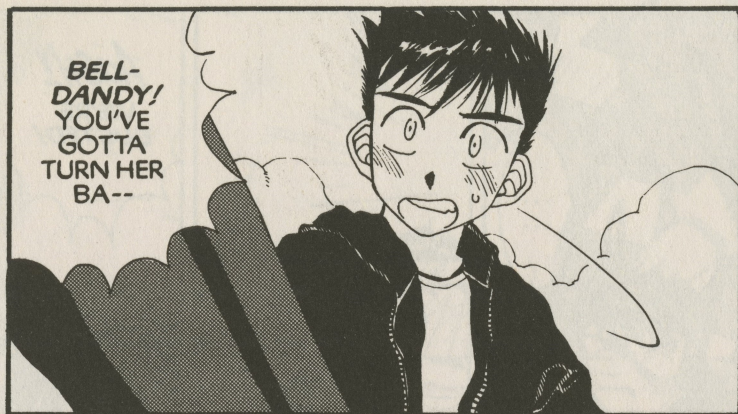
OKAY.
≡hic≡
I UNNER-
SHTAND.

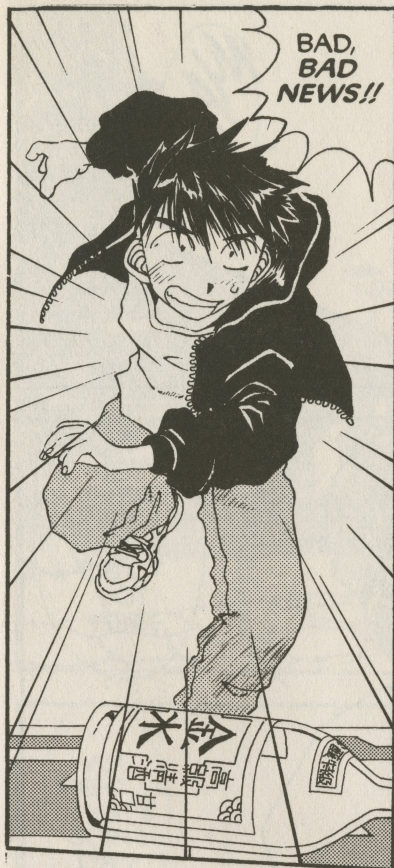




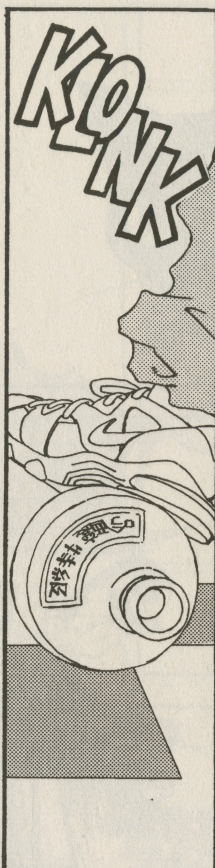




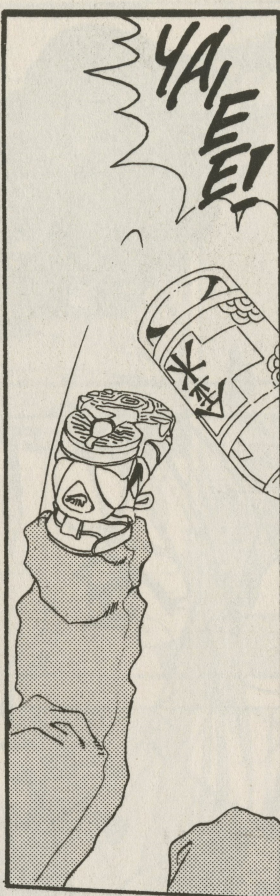




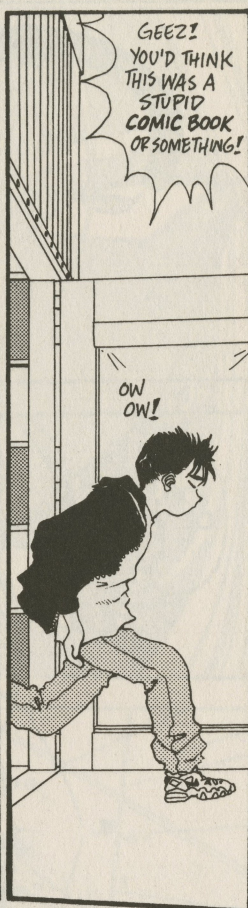
BAD,
BAD
NEWS!!



KONK

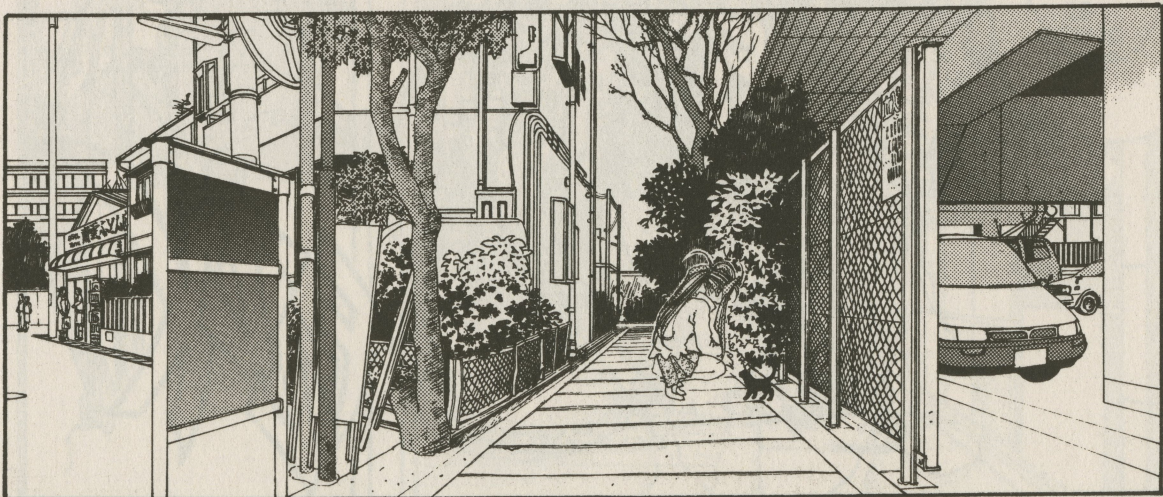


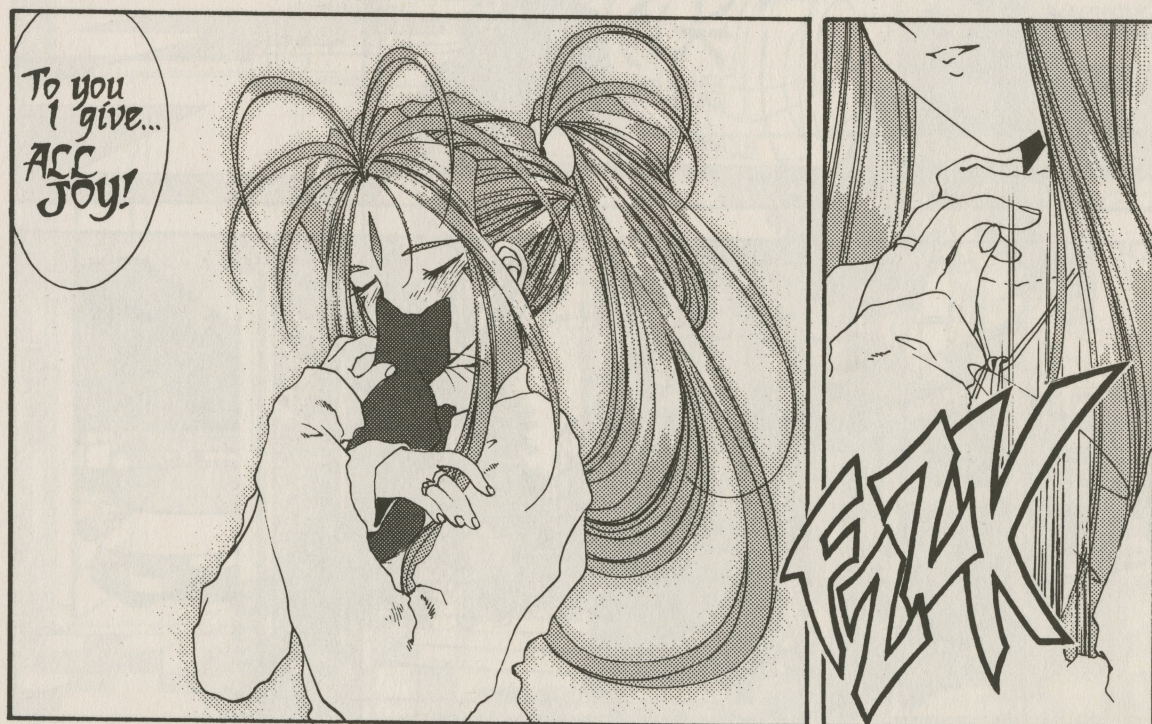
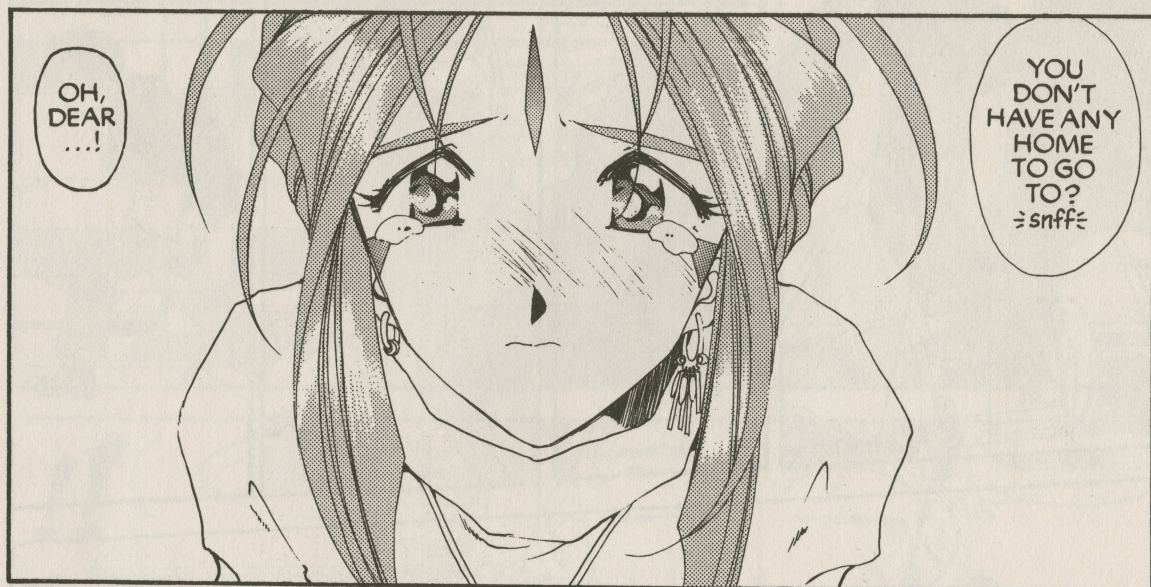
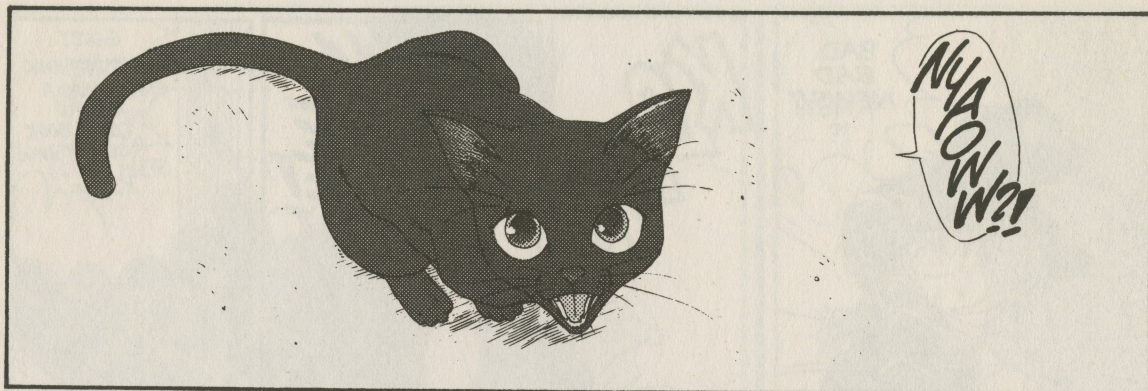
YAE
E!
E!

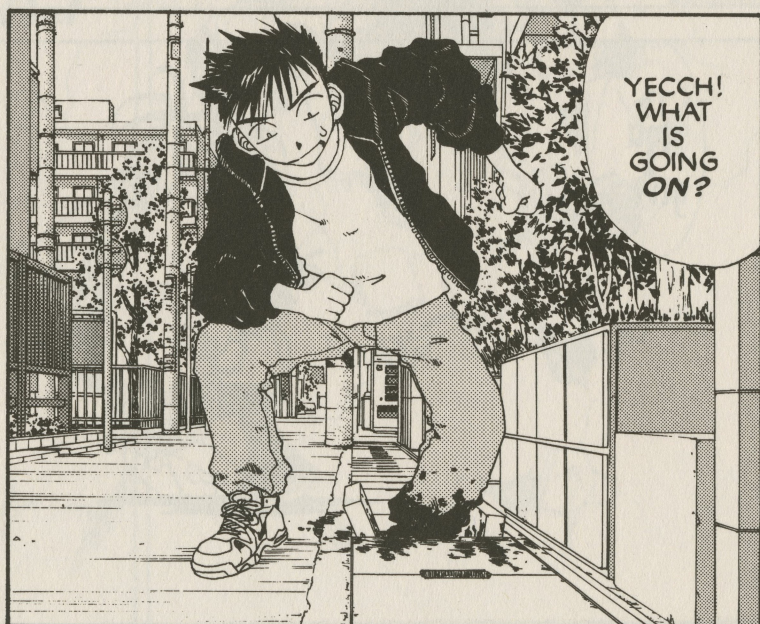
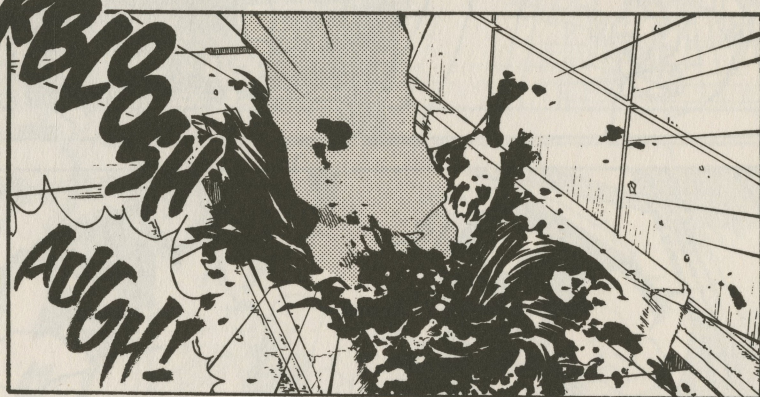
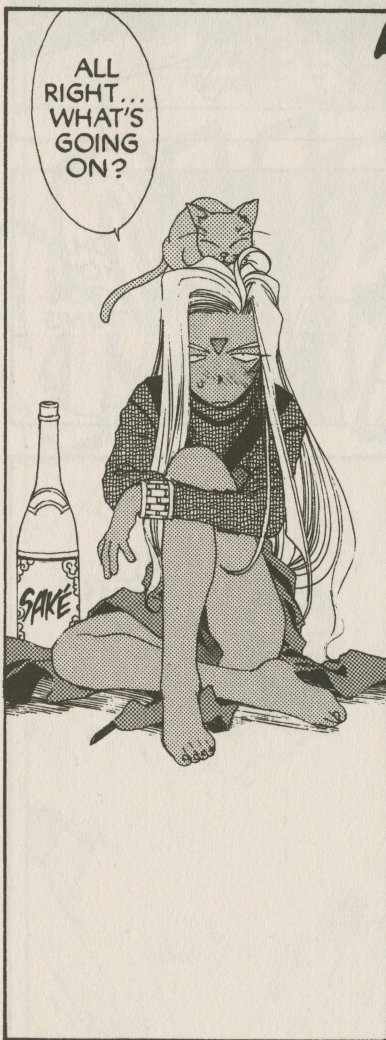
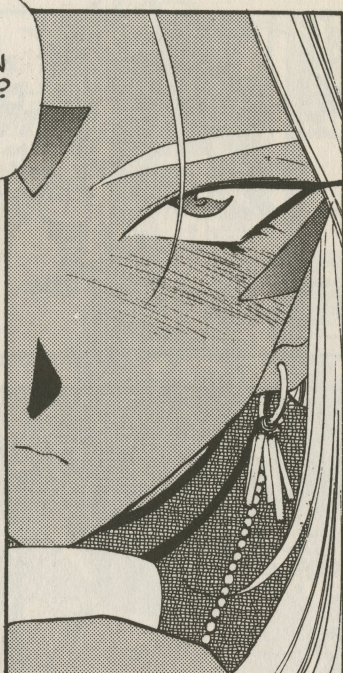
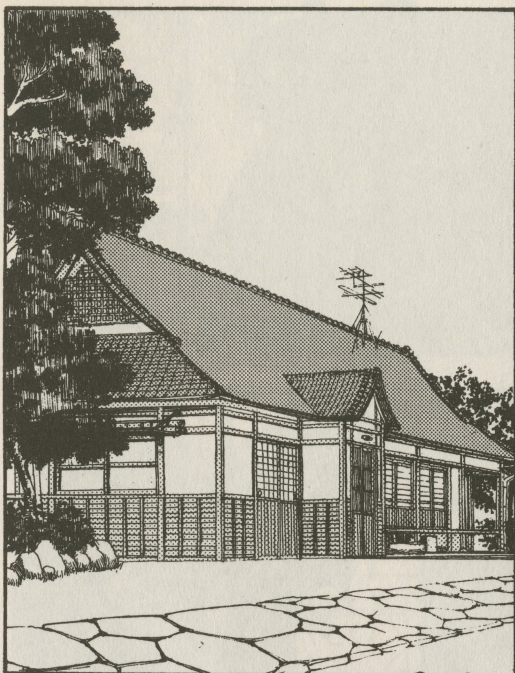


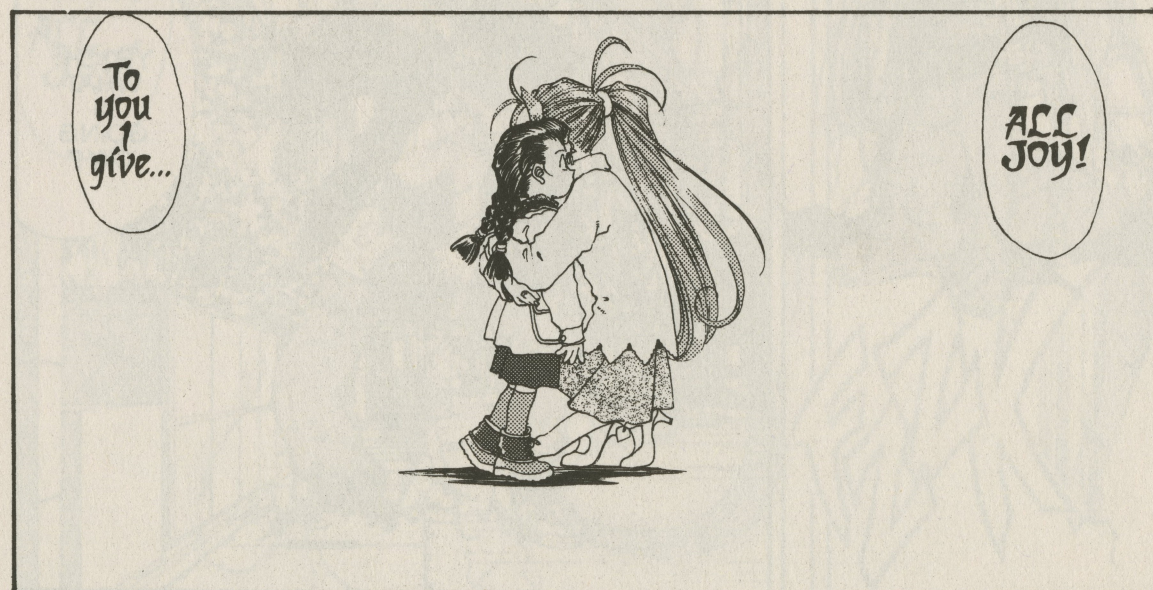
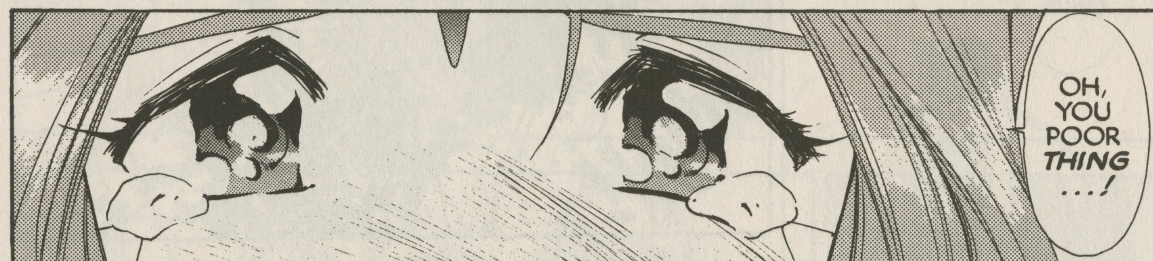
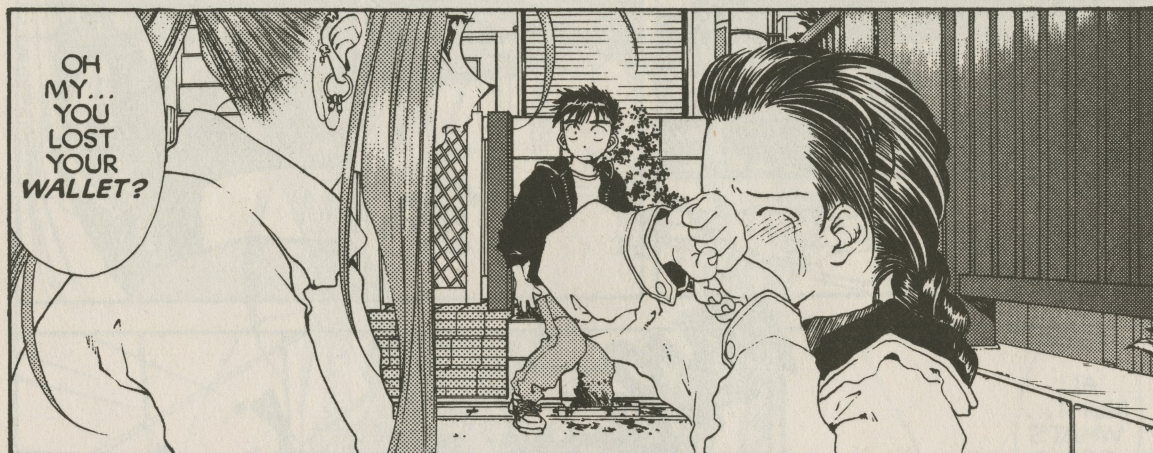
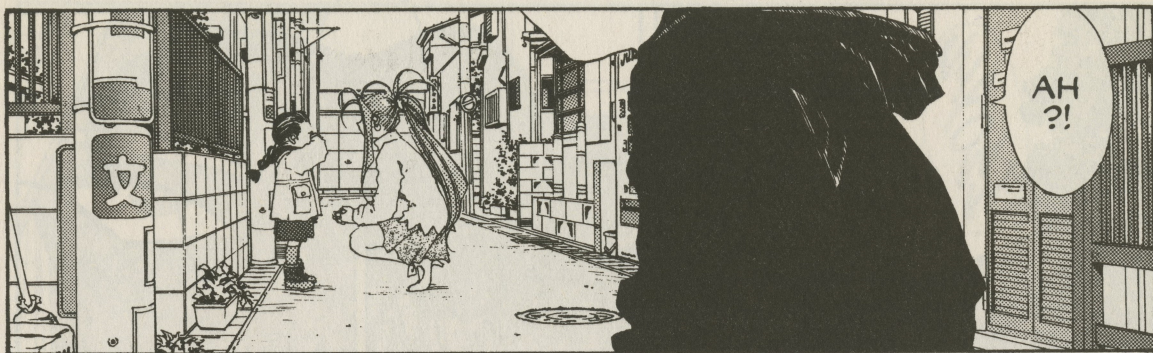
GEEZ!
YOU'D THINK
THIS WAS A
STUPID
COMIC BOOK
OR SOMETHING!

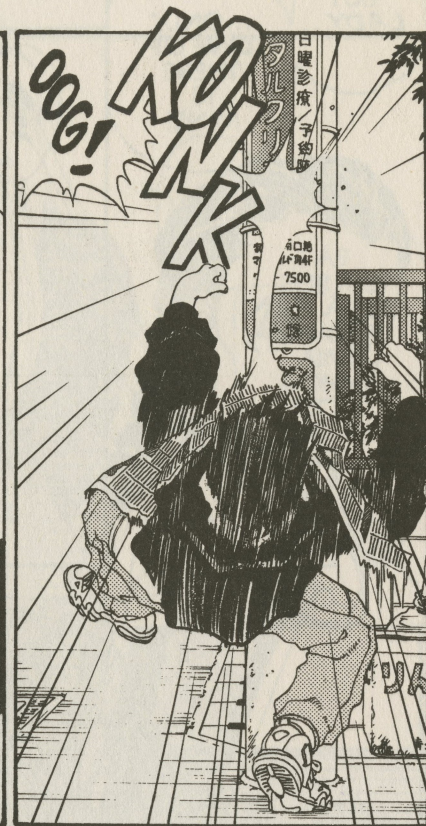
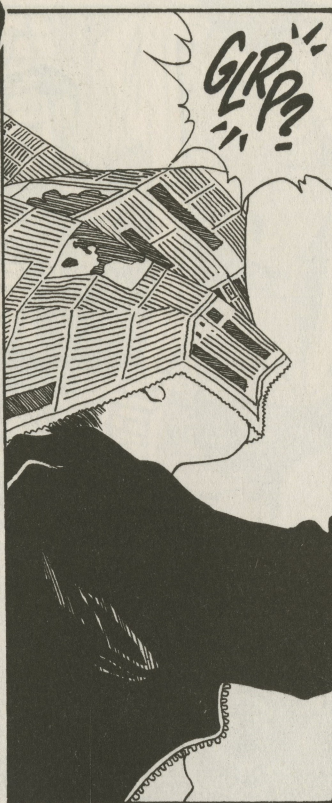
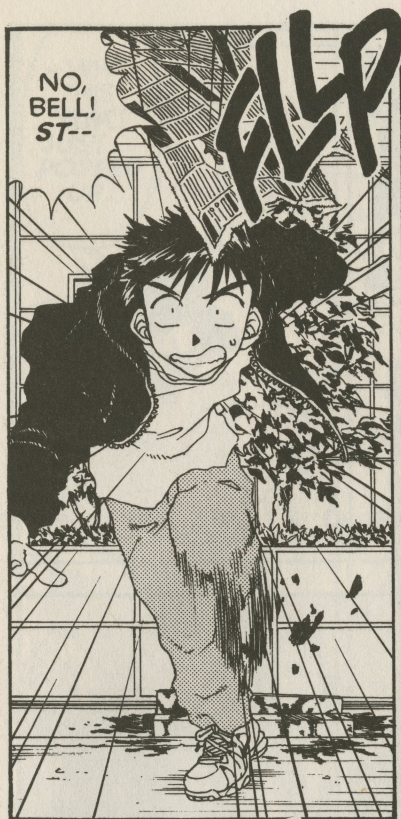
OW
OW!









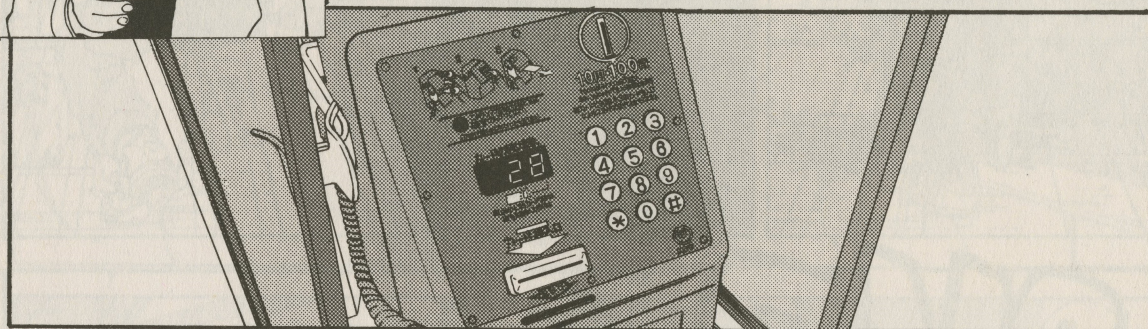
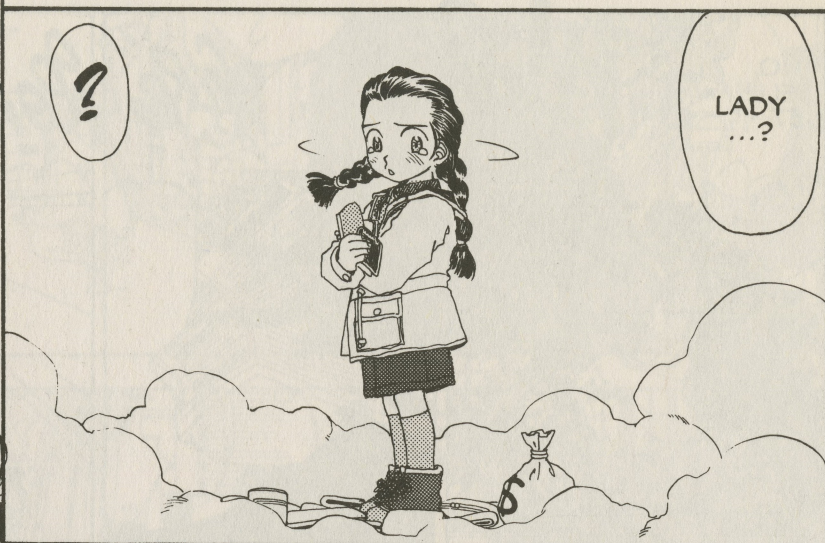
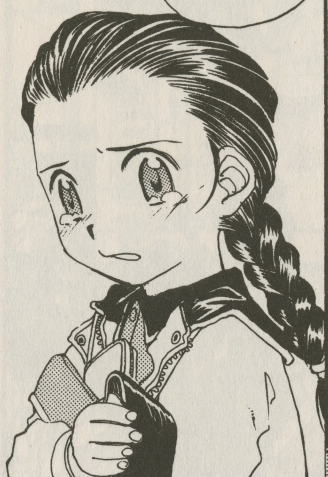


B-
BUT
LADY...

...ONLY
ONE OF
THESE
IS
MINE!

?

LADY
...?

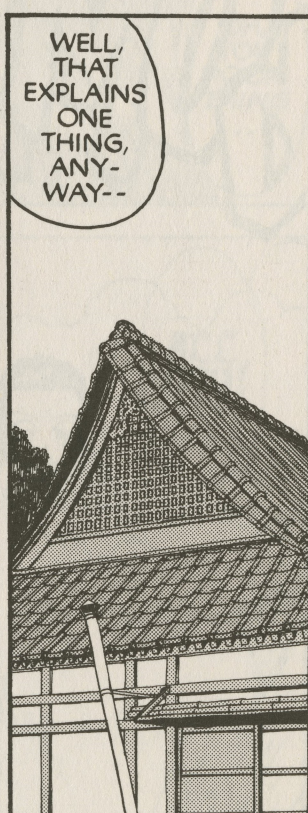
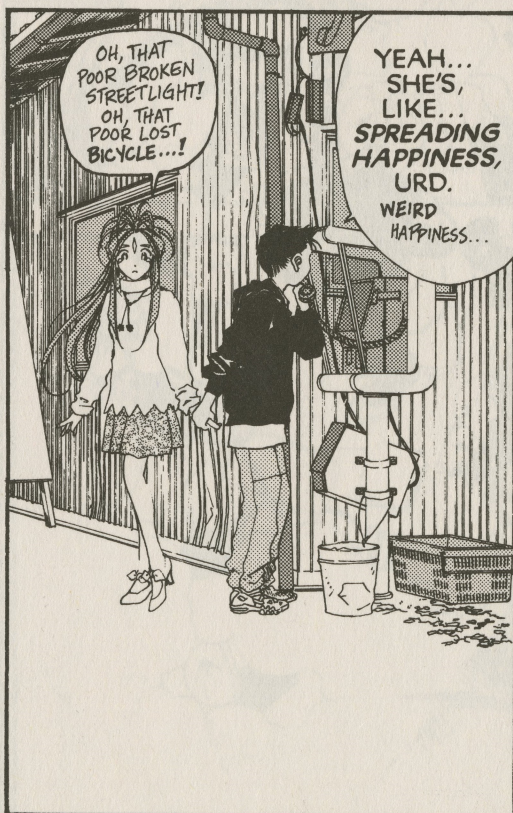


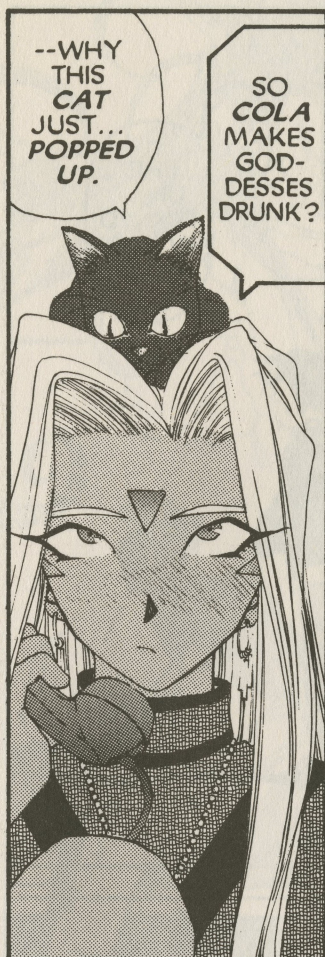
OH, THAT
POOR BROKEN
STREETLIGHT!
OH, THAT
POOR LOST
BICYCLE...!

YEAH...
SHE'S,
LIKE...
**SPREADING
HAPPINESS,**
URD.
WEIRD
HAPPINESS...

NO,
I THINK
WE'RE FINE
NOW. I'M
HANGING
ONTO
HER,
THOUGH.

WELL,
THAT
EXPLAINS
ONE
THING,
ANY-
WAY--





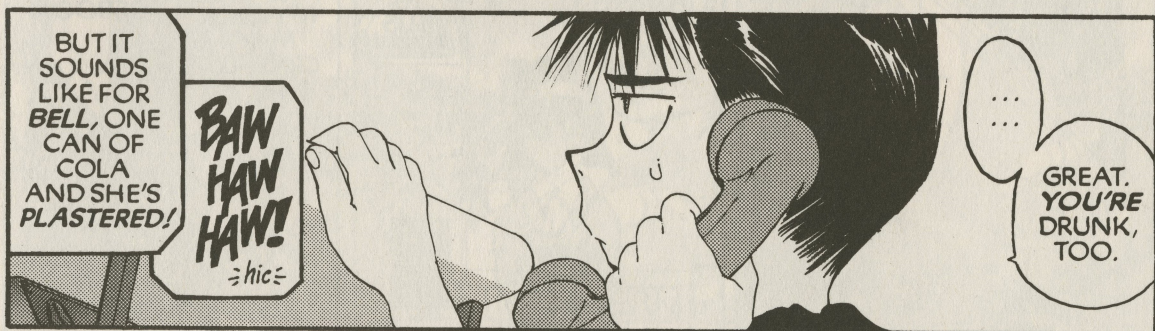
--WHY
THIS
CAT
JUST...
POPPED
UP.

SO
COLA
MAKES
GOD-
DESSES
DRUNK?



WELL...

AS
FOR ME,
IF IT AIN'T
SAKE, IT
AIN'T
GONNA
DO A
THING!



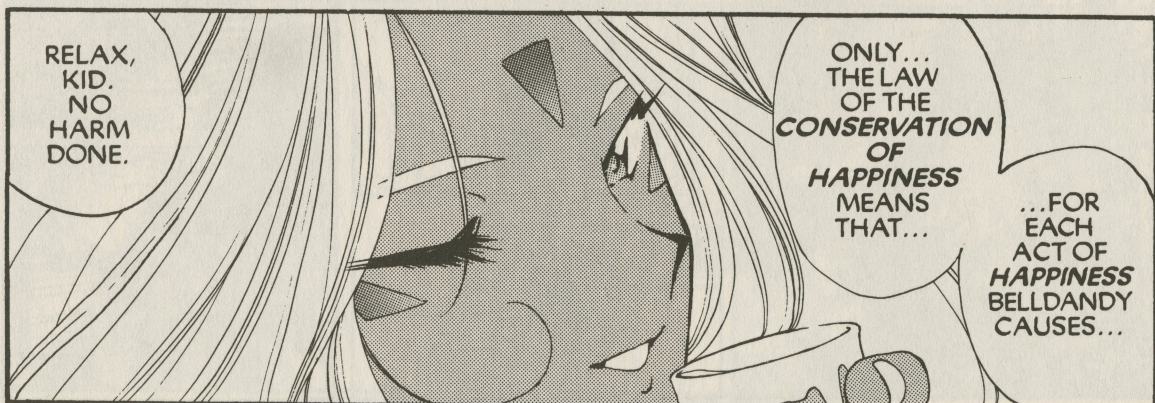
BUT IT
SOUNDS
LIKE FOR
BELL, ONE
CAN OF
COLA
AND SHE'S
PLASTERED!

**BAW
HAW
HAW!**

≡hic≡

...

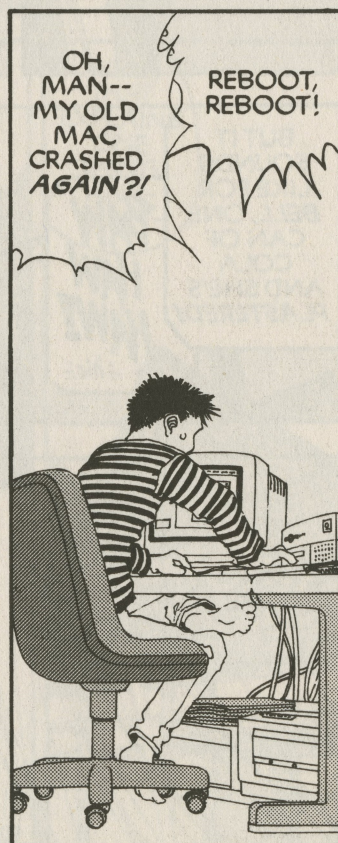
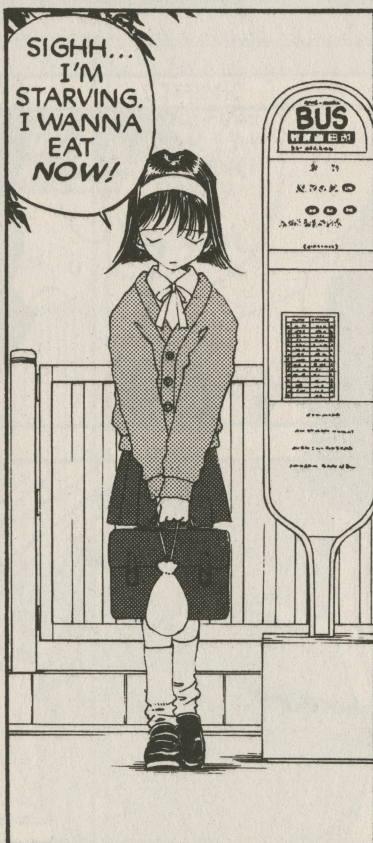
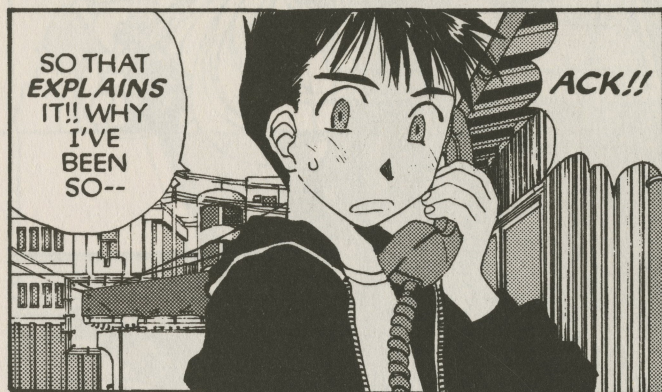
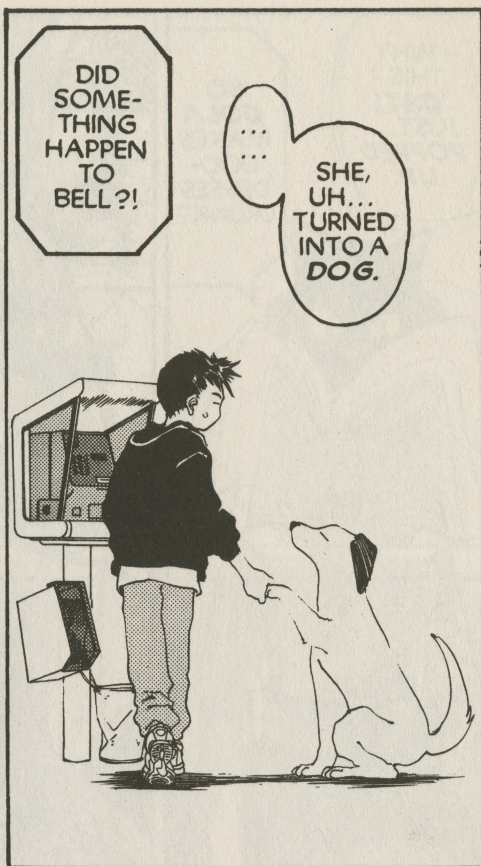
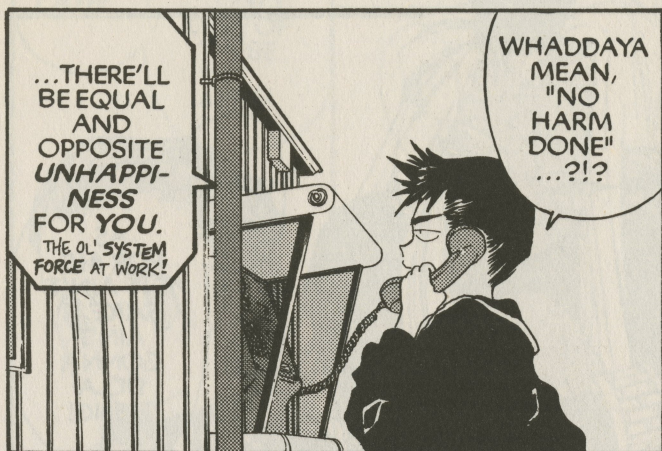
GREAT.
YOU'RE
DRUNK,
TOO.

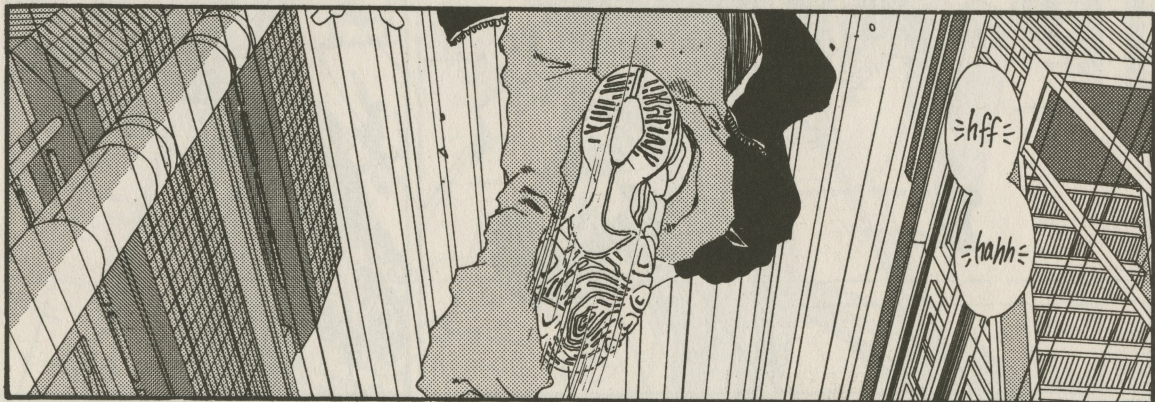
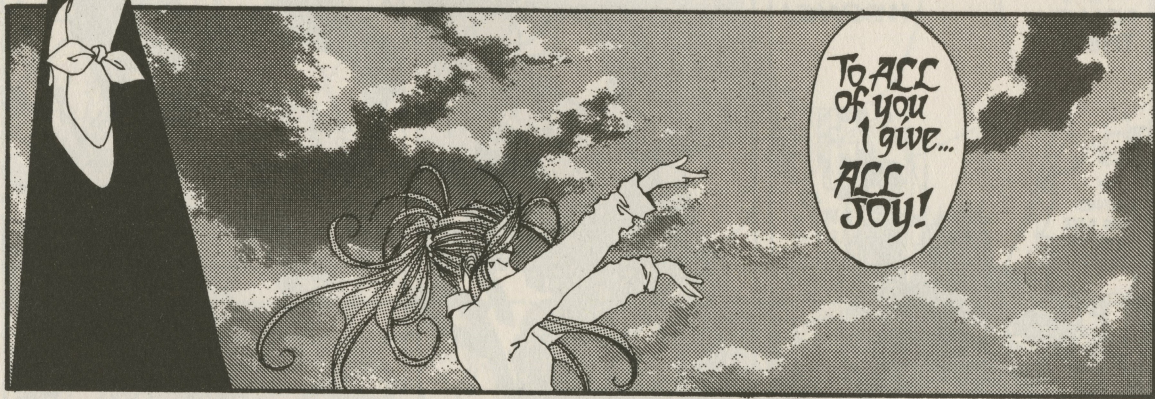
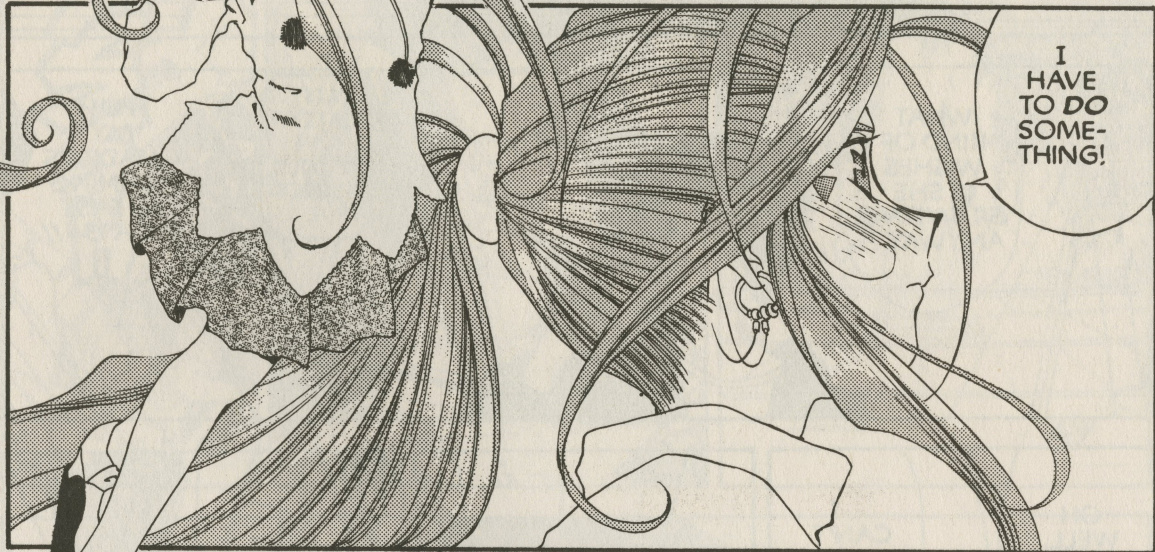


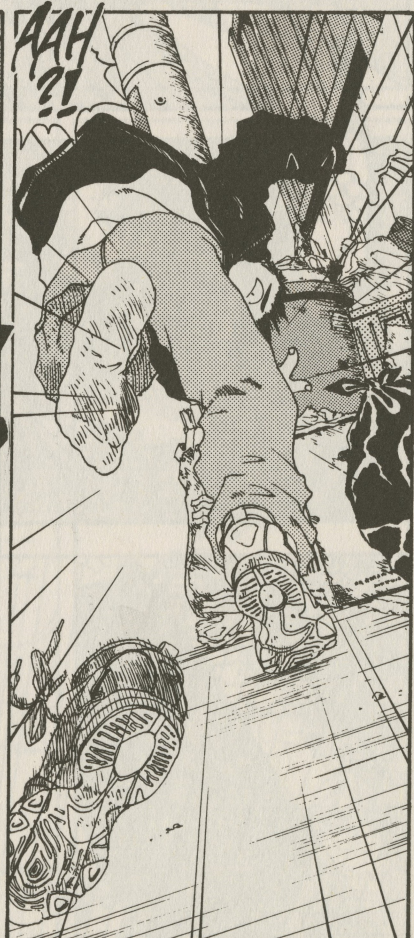
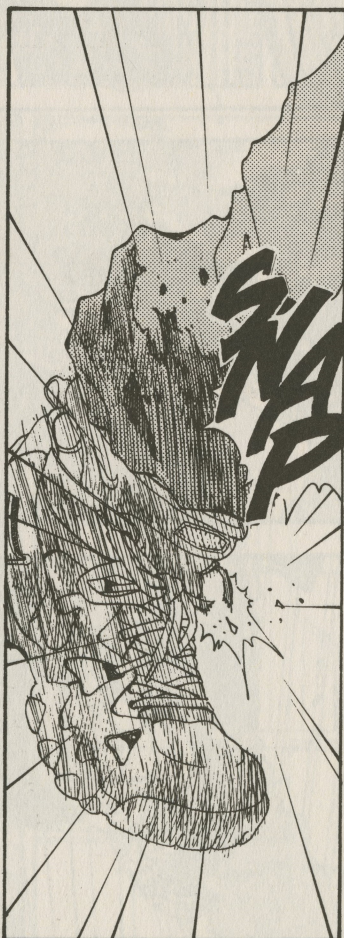
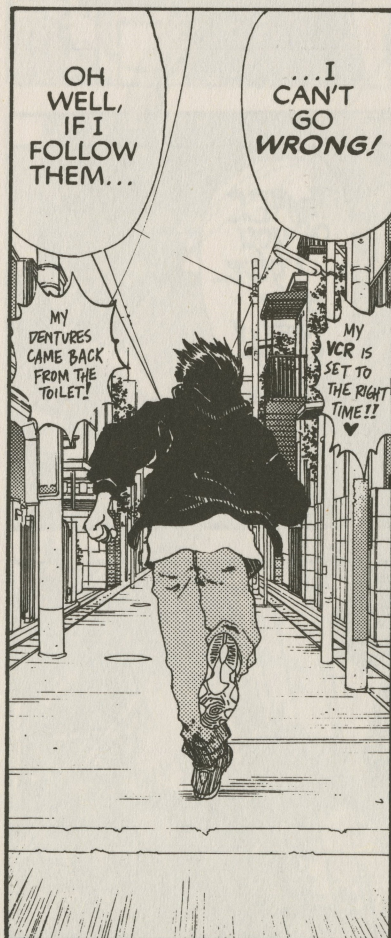
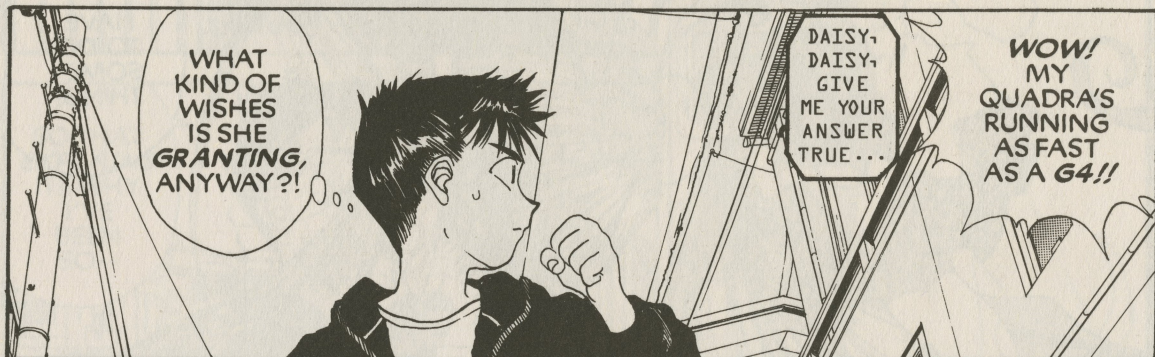
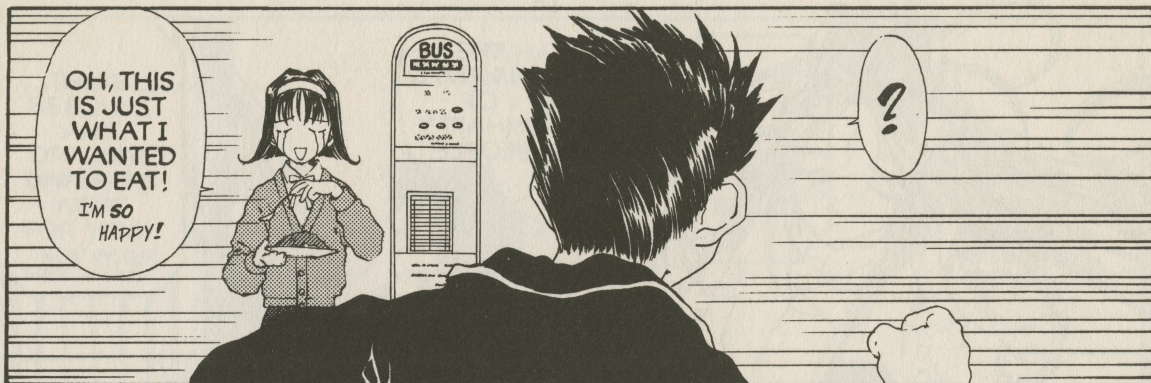
RELAX,
KID.
NO
HARM
DONE.

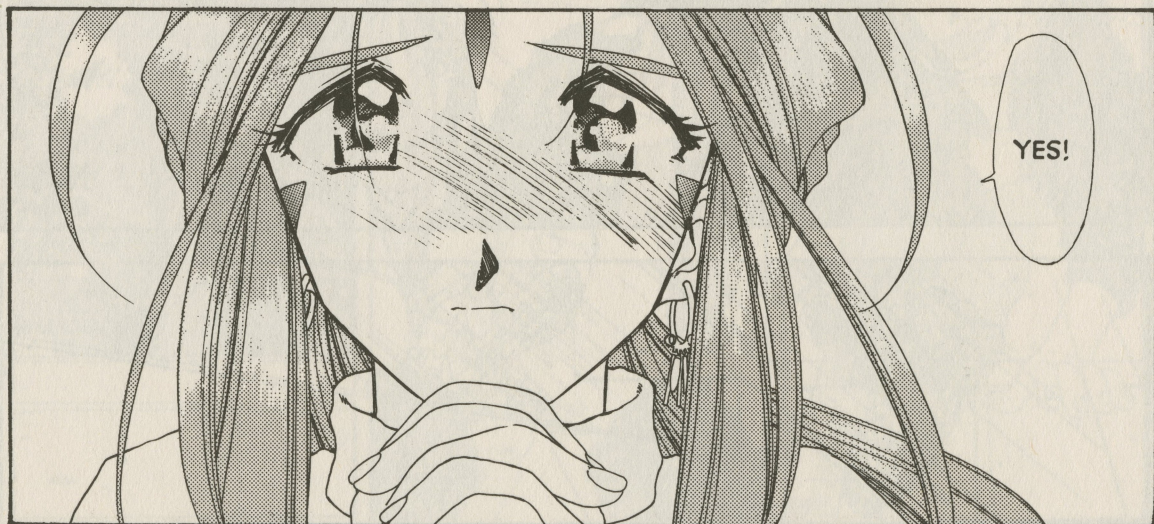
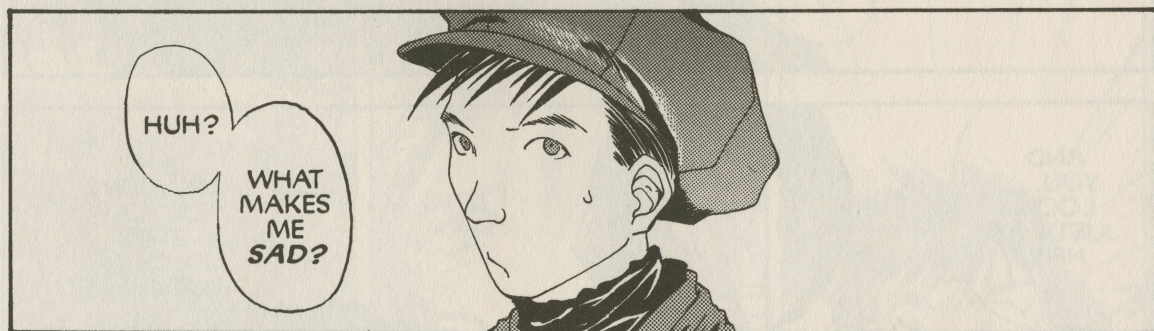
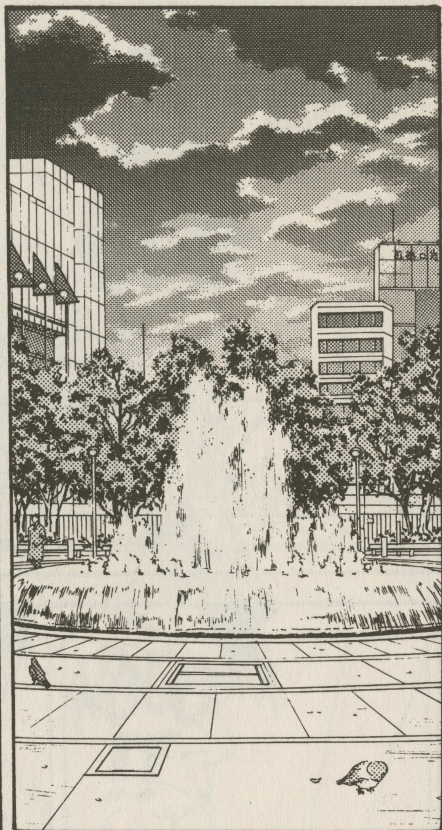
ONLY...
THE LAW
OF THE
CONSERVATION
OF
HAPPINESS
MEANS
THAT...

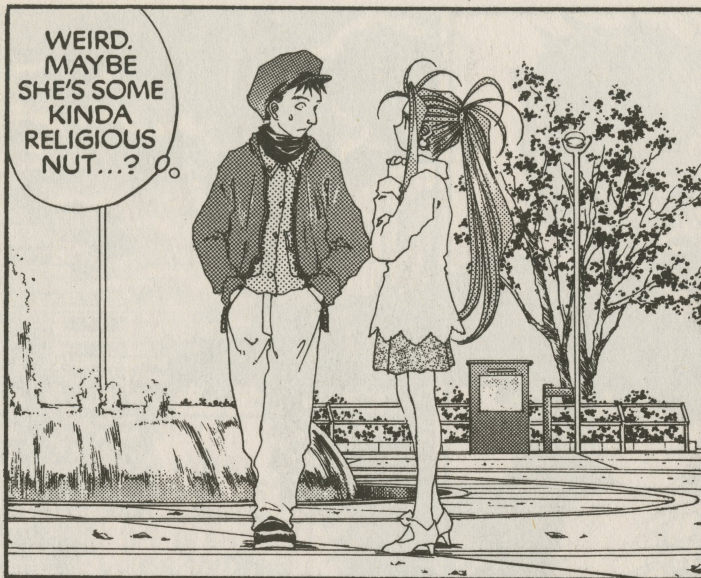
...FOR
EACH
ACT OF
HAPPINESS
BELLDANDY
CAUSES...



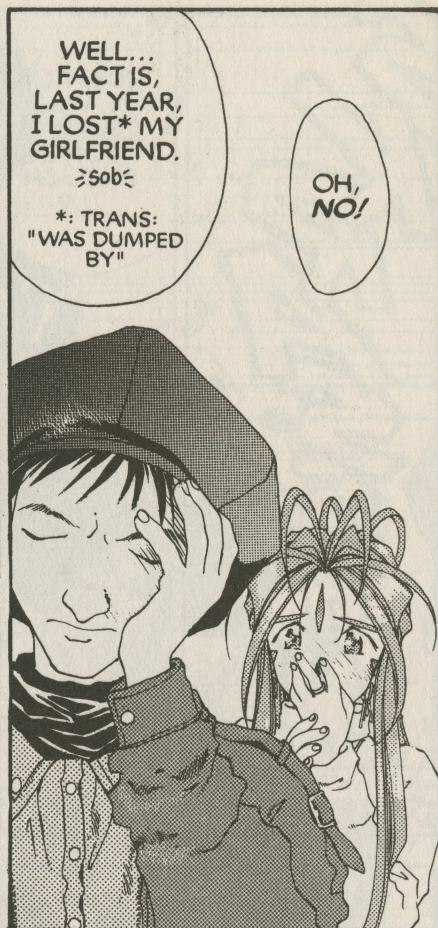








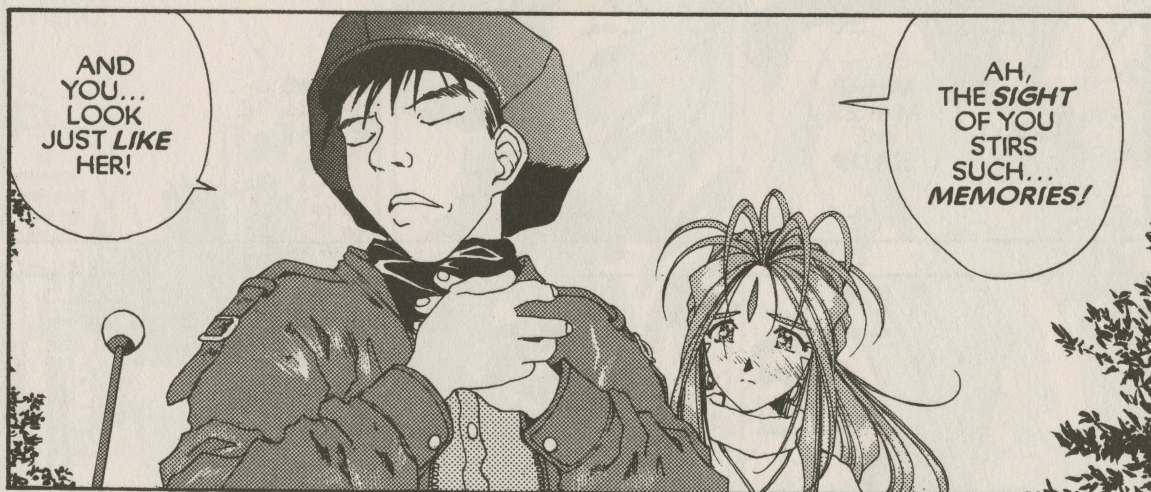
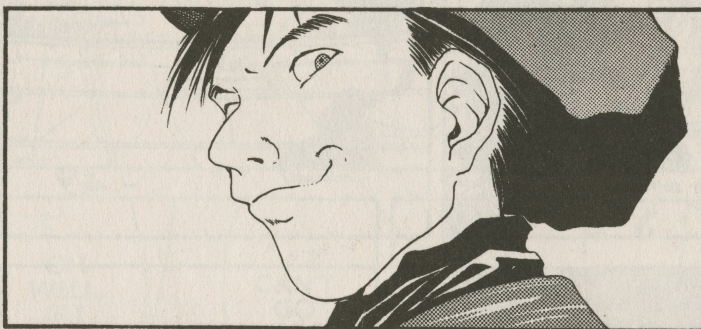
WEIRD.
MAYBE
SHE'S SOME
KINDA
RELIGIOUS
NUT...? 〇



WELL...
FACT IS,
LAST YEAR,
I LOST* MY
GIRLFRIEND.
≥sob≤

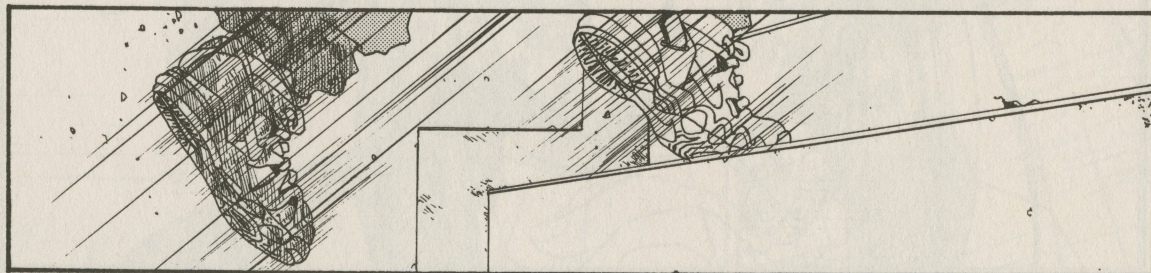
*: TRANS:
"WAS DUMPED
BY"

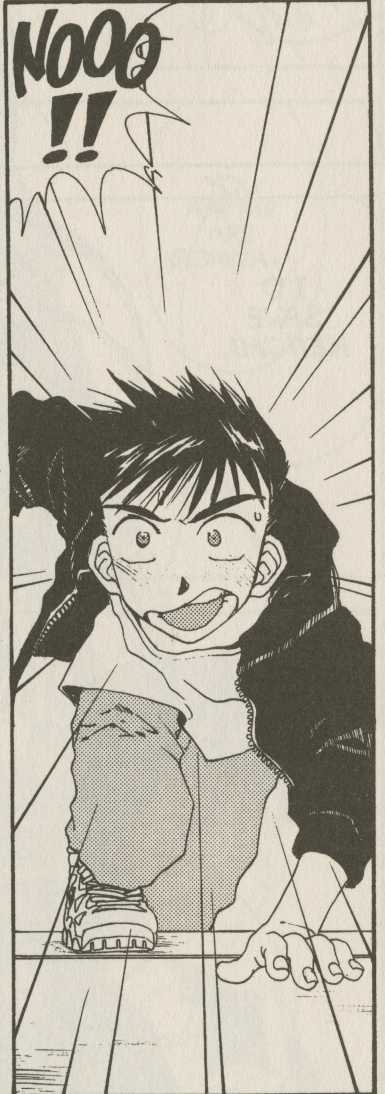
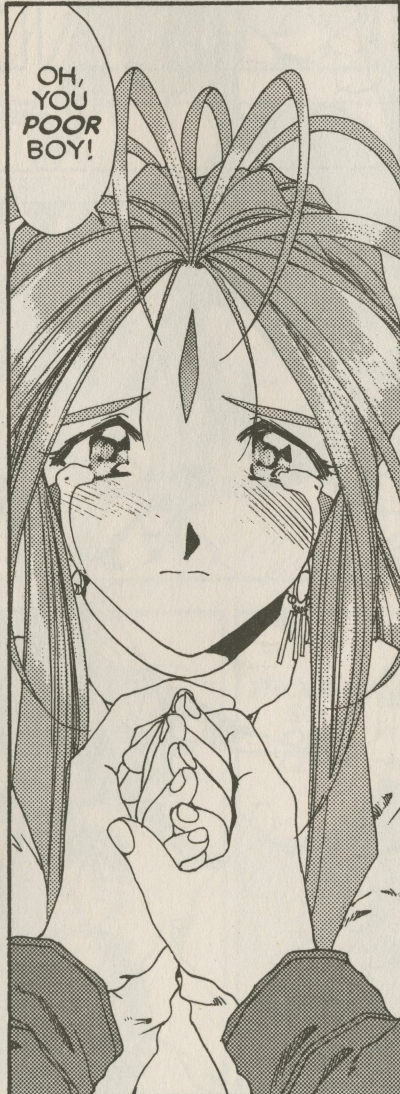
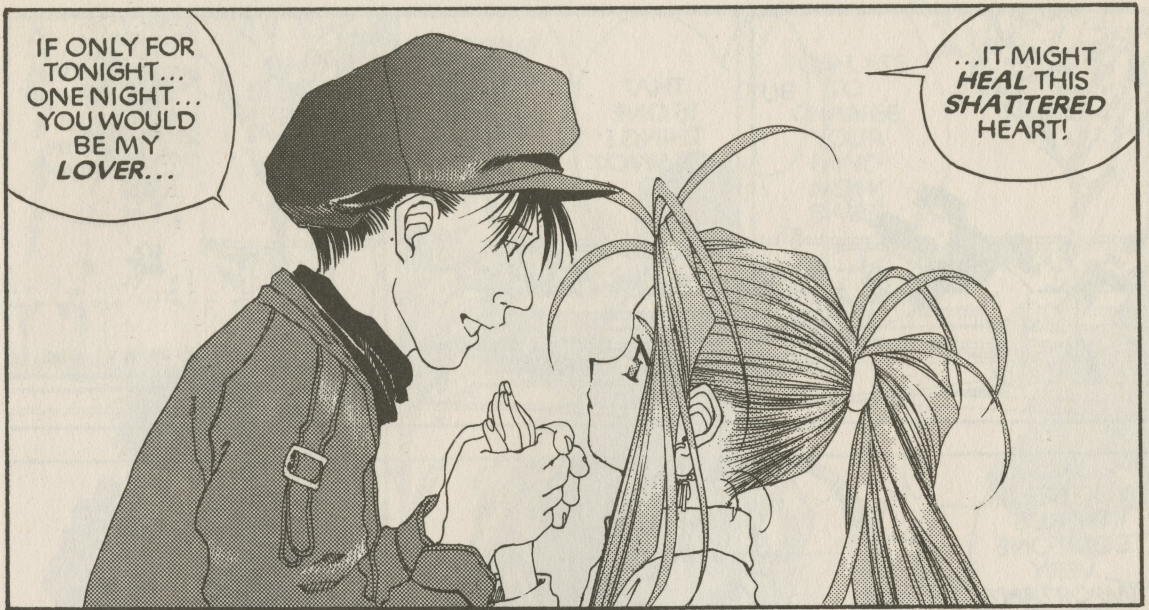
OH,
NO!

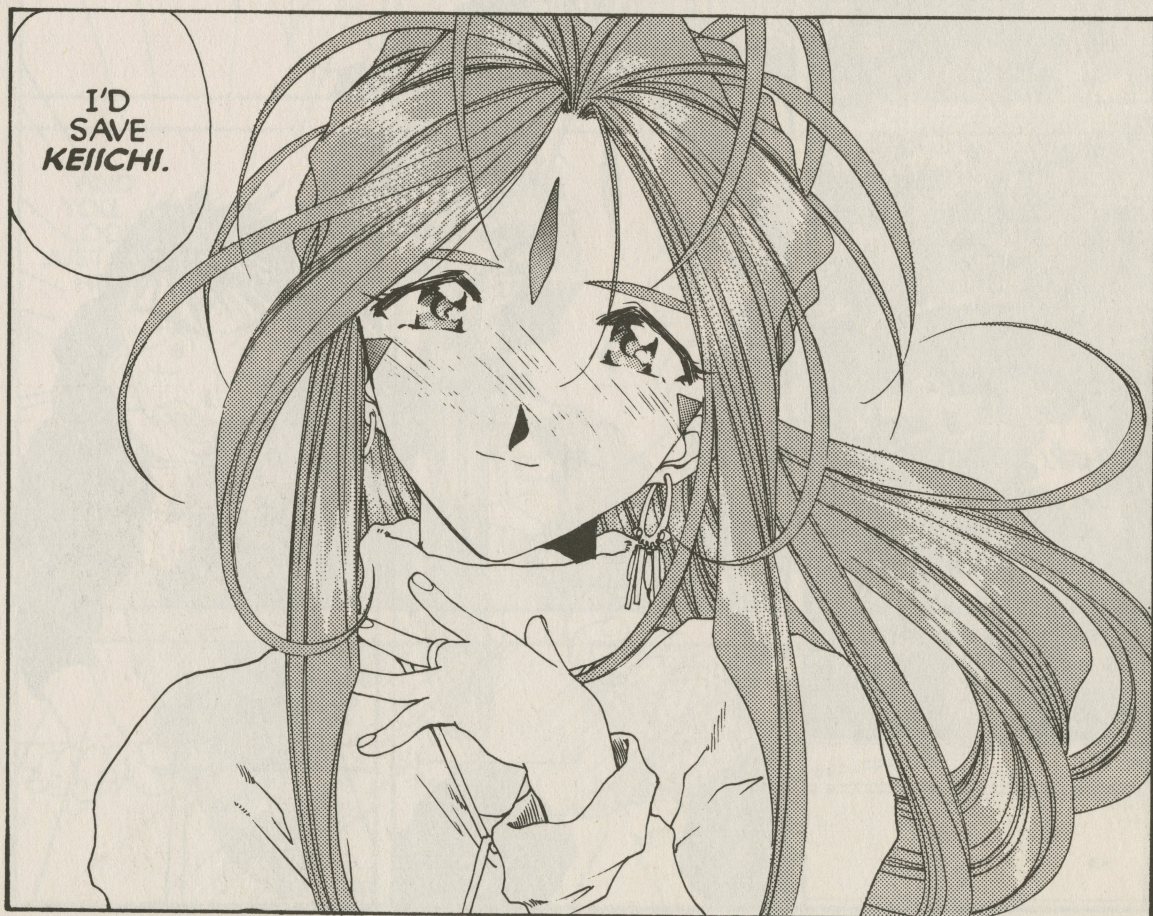
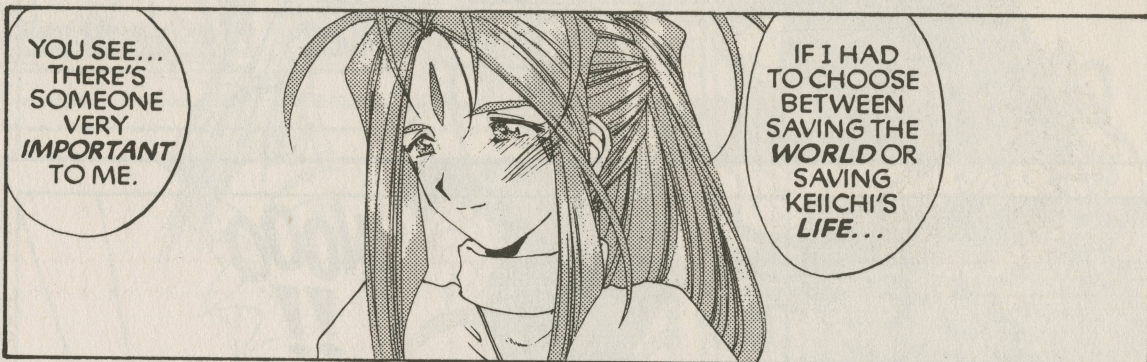
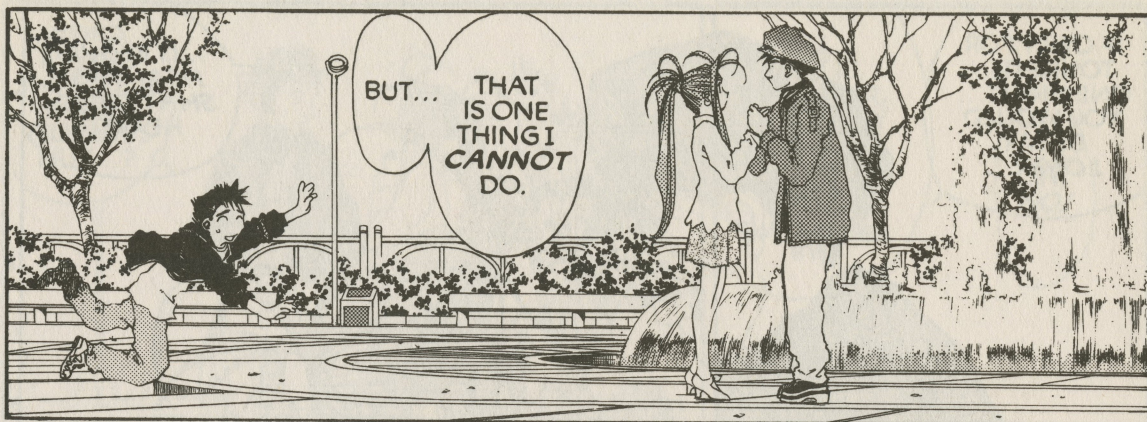


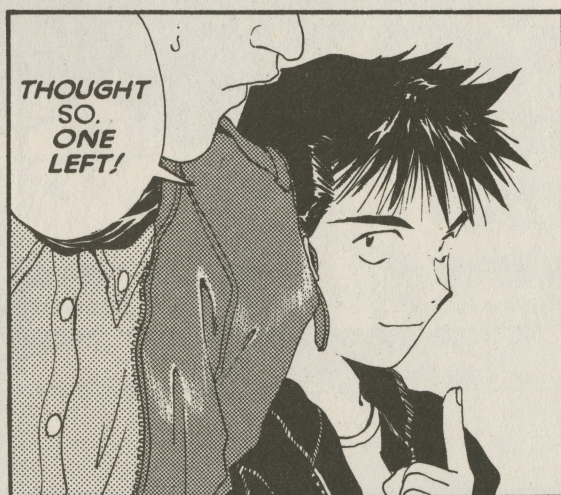
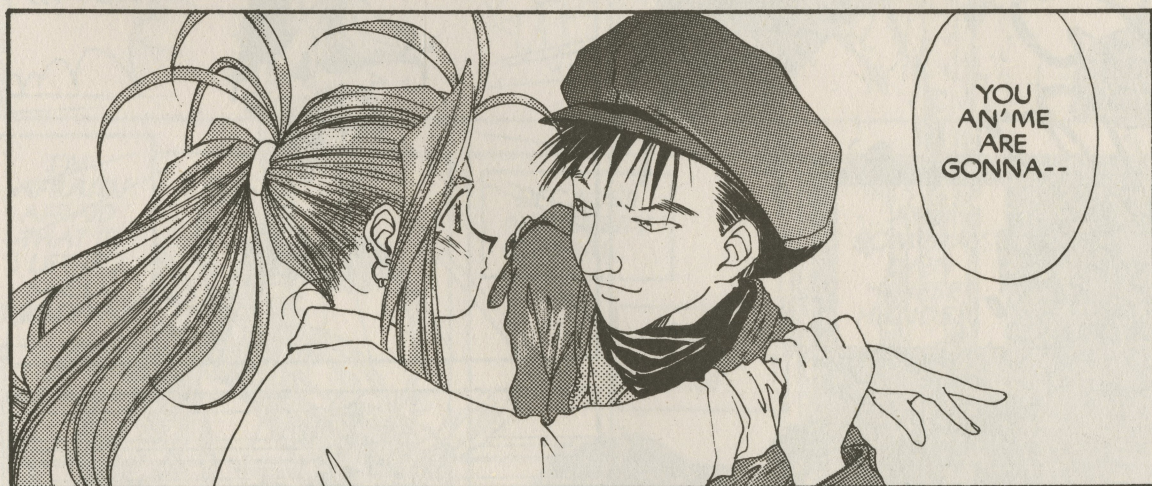
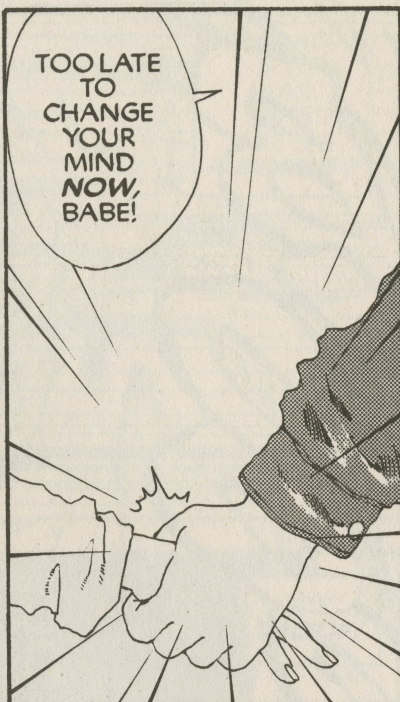
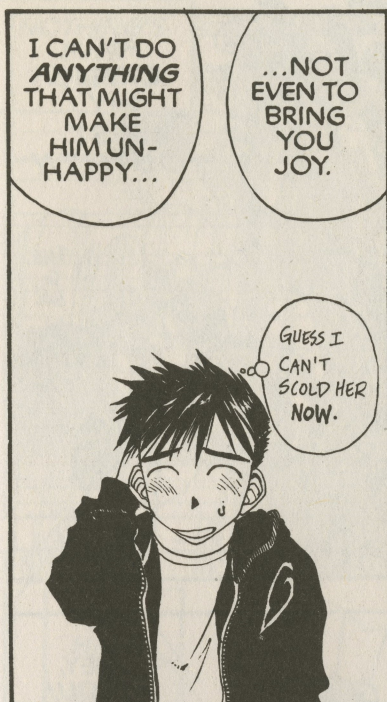
AND
YOU...
LOOK
JUST LIKE
HER!

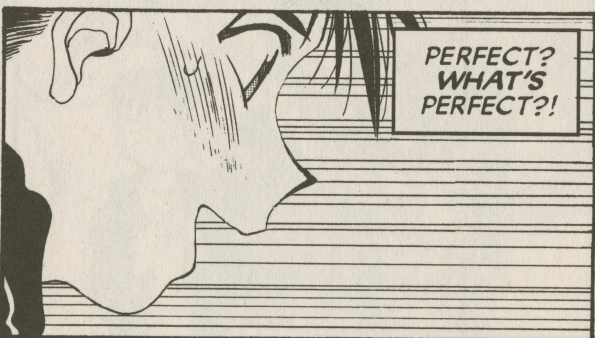
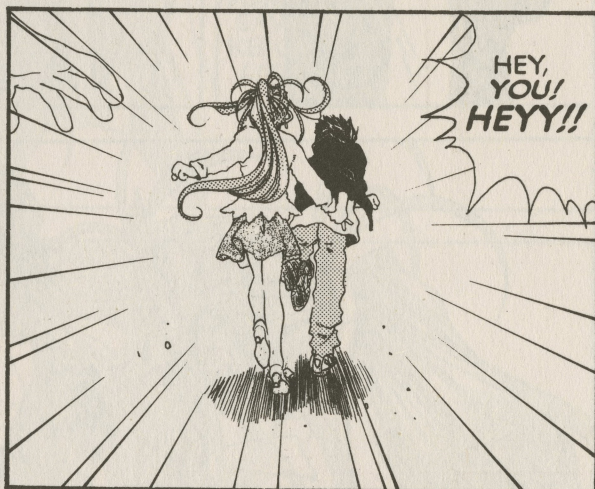
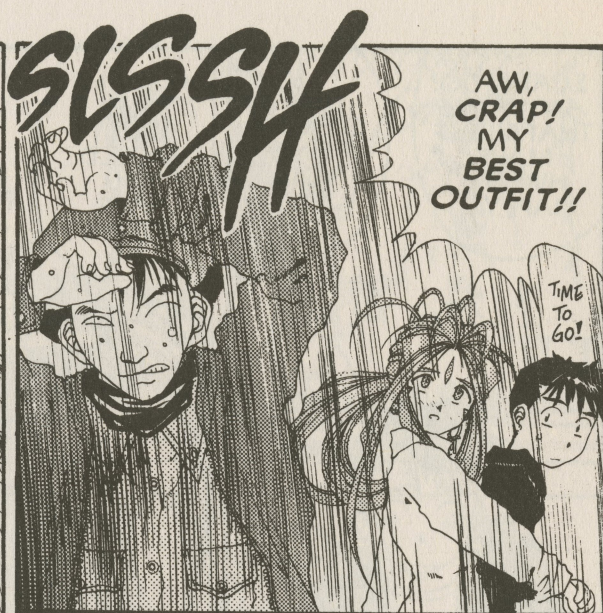
AH,
THE *SIGHT*
OF YOU
STIRS
SUCH...
MEMORIES!





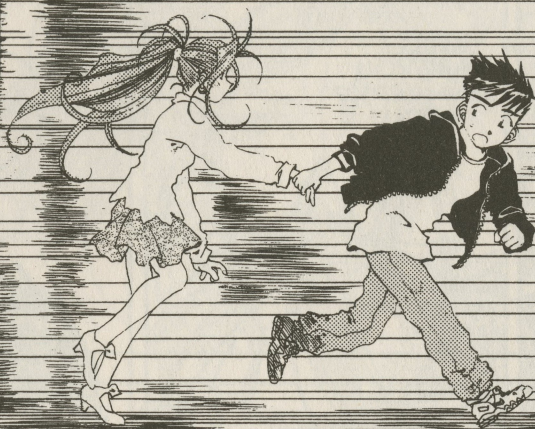






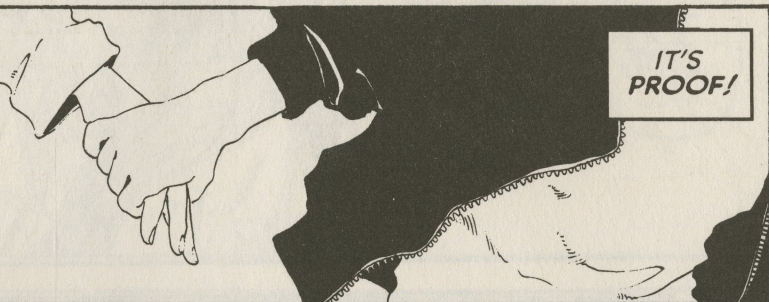
NOTHING'S
EVER
PERFECT!

IF IT
WAS,
WHY
ARE WE
RUNNING?

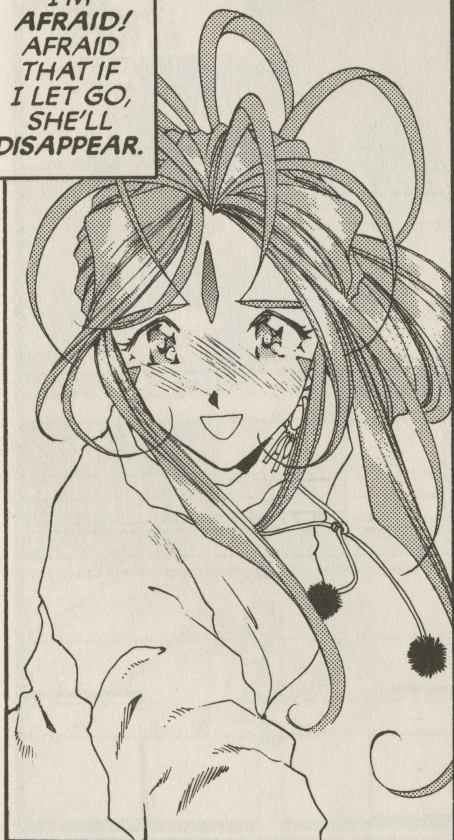


HER
HAND
IN
MINE!

IT'S
PROOF!



I'M
AFRAID!
AFRAID
THAT IF
I LET GO,
SHE'LL
DISAPPEAR.

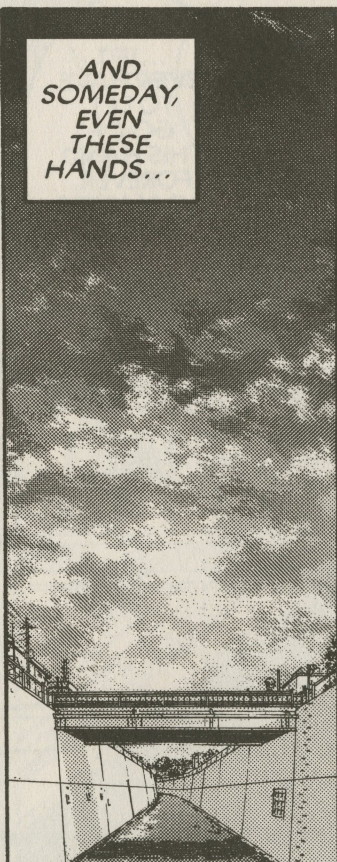


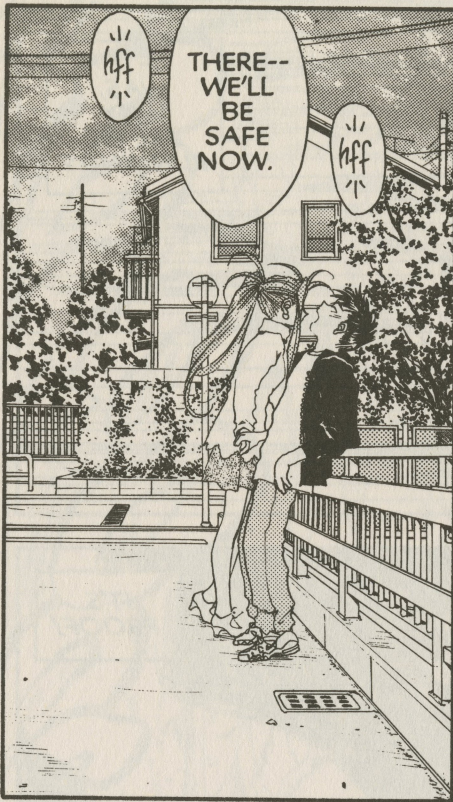
BECAUSE
NOT EVERY
DREAM...

...ALWAYS
COMES
TRUE.



AND
SOMEDAY,
EVEN
THESE
HANDS...

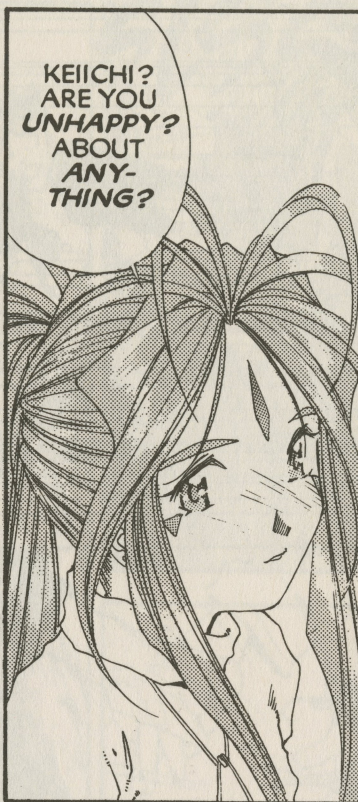




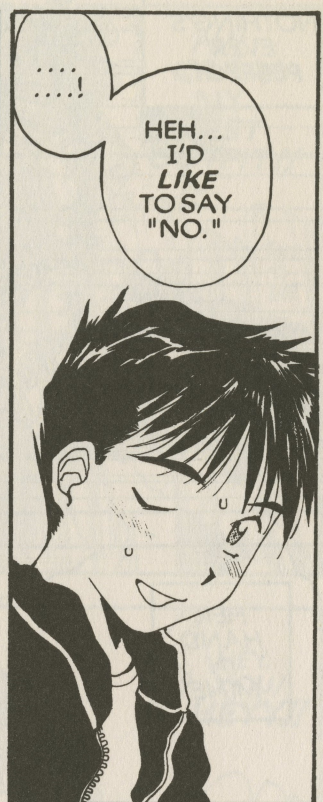
hff

THERE--
WE'LL
BE
SAFE
NOW.

hff

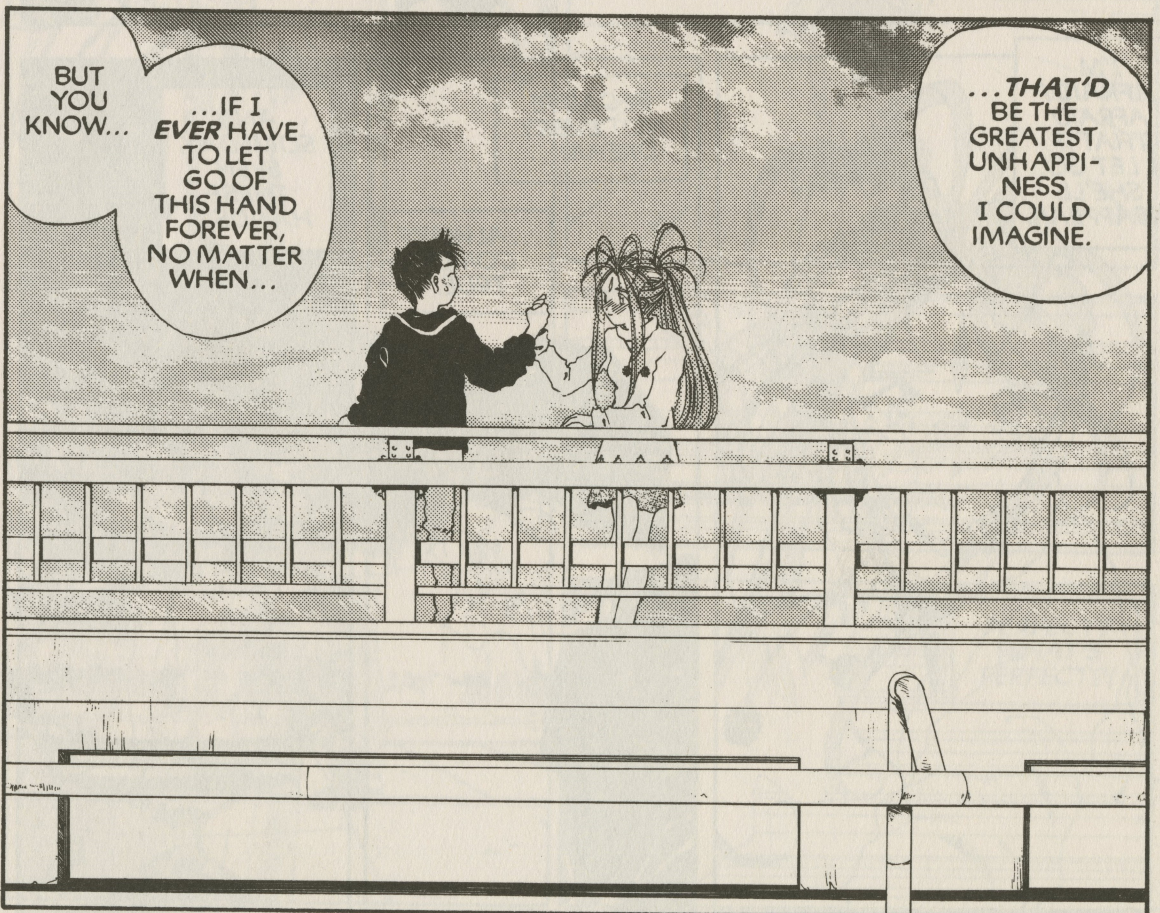


KEIICHI?
ARE YOU
UNHAPPY?
ABOUT
ANY-
THING?



....!

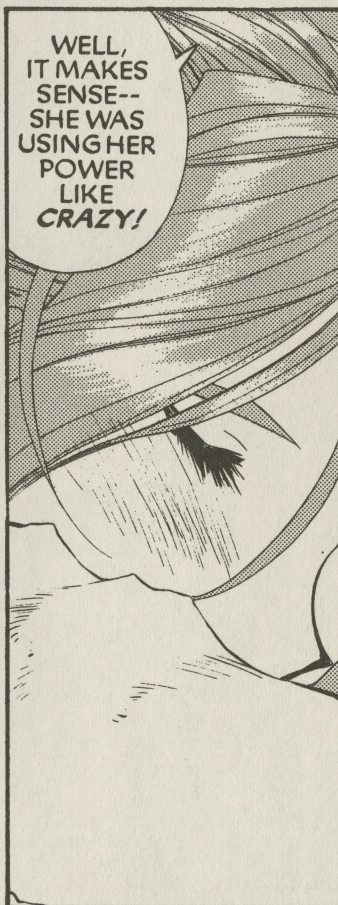
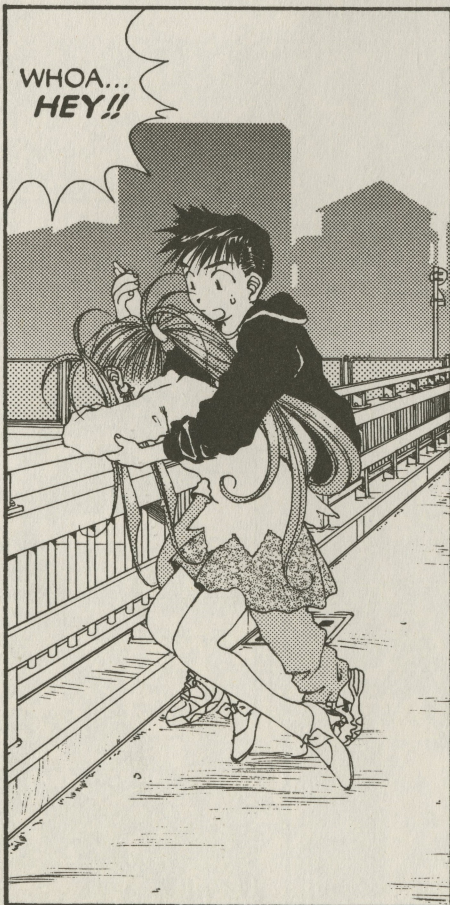
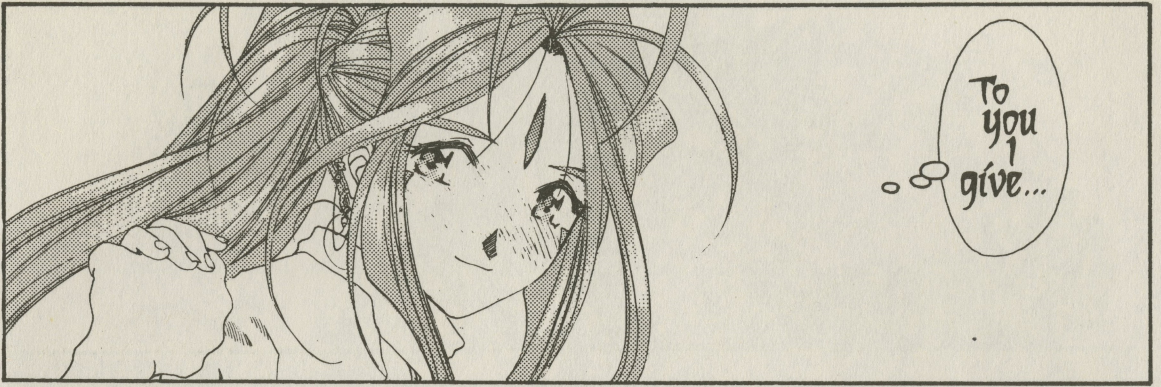
HEH...
I'D
LIKE
TO SAY
"NO."

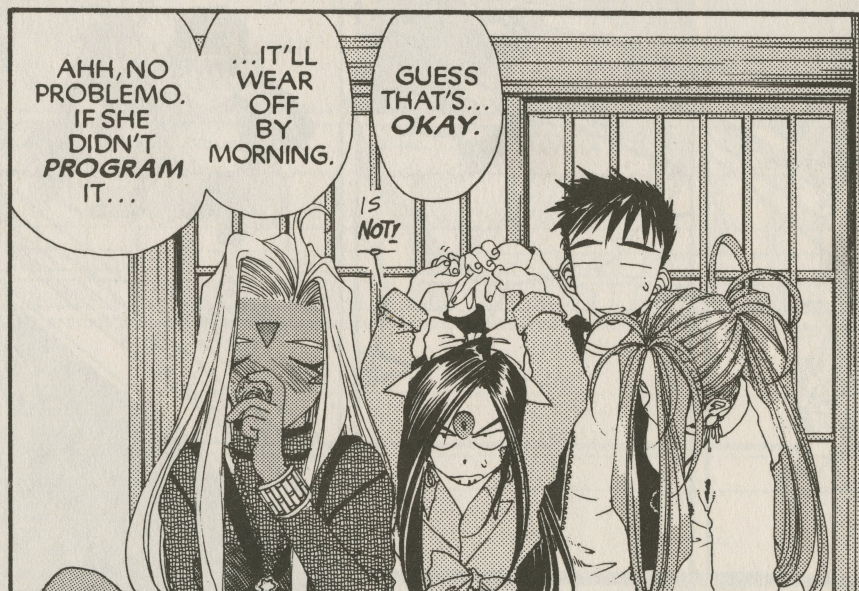
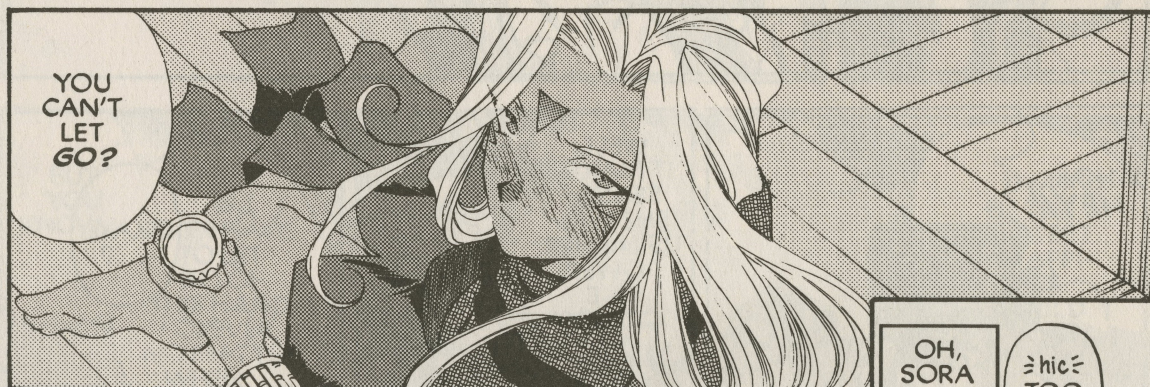
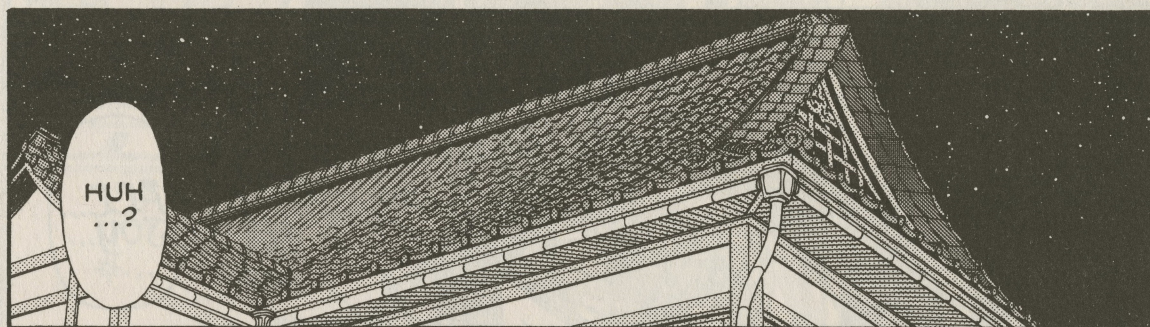
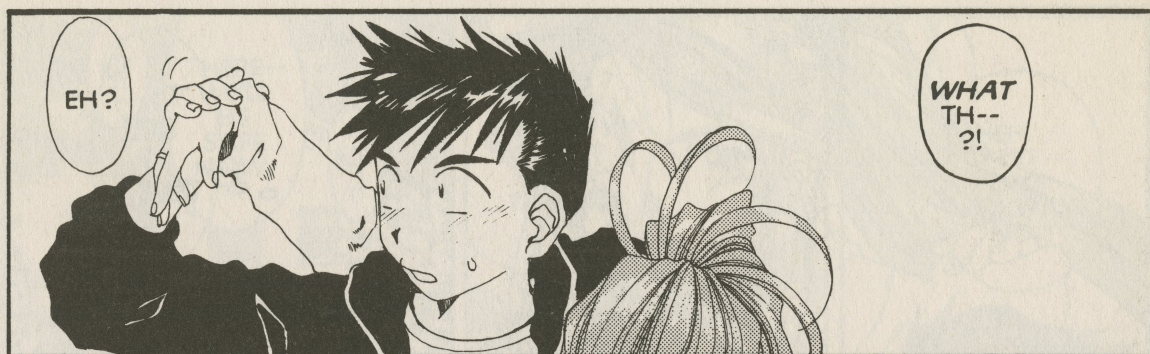


BUT
YOU
KNOW...

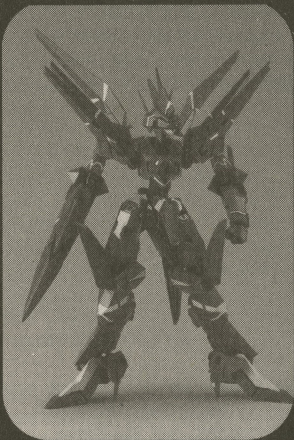
...IF I
EVER HAVE
TO LET
GO OF
THIS HAND
FOREVER,
NO MATTER
WHEN...

...THAT'D
BE THE
GREATEST
UNHAPPI-
NESS
I COULD
IMAGINE.





NEXT: "I WANNA HOLD YOUR HAND"



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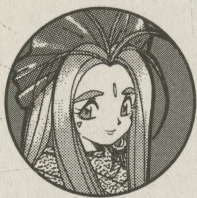
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PREVIEWS

KAIYODO





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NOTE: Full addresses and e-mail addresses will not be printed unless you ask!

Well, well, Cola makes Belldandy drunk! Good thing that's not the case with everyone, or we'd have lots of tipsy kids in schools across the planet. Poor Keiichi. If Bell only knew her actions were reacting equally negatively to Keiichi, maybe she would have held back a little. But what fun would that be? And how else would Sora get so big?

OMG! Pen Pals

Tonia Clifford
8475 156th
Milaca, MN 56353
JadeKat70@hotmail.com

Roberto Lagunes Cordoba
Bustamante 201 Fracc. Los Pinos
Veracruz, Ver. C. P. 91870
Mexico
rlccamp2000@hotmail.com

Annalis "Lanie" Lowe
1300 Sunrise Street, Apt. #117
Round Rock, TX 78664

Marianna Minieri
9354 NW 53 Ct.
Sunrise, FL 33351

Cat Musgrove
Cat4785@hotmail.com

Raymond Gonzales
yuihongo2@fushigiyugi.com

One important note/disclaimer: the *OMG!* pen-pal list is a service for FUN only! If anyone wants to be taken off the list for any reason, or if we have some information wrong, just send us a note to let us know. Dark Horse Comics, Inc. assumes no responsibility for anything that is sent to or from *Oh My Goddess!* Pen Pals.

Greetings from Europe!

First of all, I have to thank all of you wonderful people at Dark Horse and Studio Proteus for your hard work of bringing over the best in Japanese comics. I became interested in manga and anime only a few years ago, but since then I have fallen in love with them and managed to acquire a rather big collection, despite the difficulties. Yeah, being a manga and anime fan is real hard in this country I live in, since there is only one comic store at all (at least I only know one), 100 kilometers away [that's about 62 miles for you Americans out there — Tim]. The prices are very high, since the usual monthly income is about 40,000 (usual, not minimal), and the exchange rate for comics is 1 to 350, for videos 1 to 475.... Oh, I should quit whining; at least I get my

monthly dose, and there is a German TV channel that features anime regularly (although they are always for mature viewers). I got to see *Neon Genesis Evangelion* lately! Guess I should consider myself lucky.

Now, back to the topic. I wanted to let you know that *Oh My Goddess!* is one of my favorite manga. Such a work, that can be enjoyed by both genders and almost all ages, is a real gem. Mr. Fujishima's (I hope he doesn't mind it if I call him Mister. I don't like to mix languages) art and storytelling can be only considered as superb. Lastly, I read "Queen Sayoko," part 4 and I'm really curious how it will end (I have to wait three weeks to read it at last).

I would like to ask a few questions, if you don't mind. Just what skin color does Urd have? Last time I read *Previews*, I noticed *AX* magazine's cover. On that cover, Urd's face was red. What will happen with *Drakuun*? I really liked that series, hope it won't meet the same fate as *Urusei Yatsura* or *Fist of the North Star*. And, for my last question, what are your intentions with the *Exaxxion* manga?

Dandé Péter
dmon@netposta.net

Well, first things first. Thanks for putting out the extra effort to read our manga comics. We two manga boyz have been to Germany, and we know how pricey comics can be. Hungary is probably worse. (You are from Hungary, aren't you? 'Net detective Tim strikes again!)

Anyway, to your questions. First of all, Urd's skin is best described as tawny. She seems to have that constant, all-over tan reminiscent of a California girl, and the materialistic attitude to match. But, given this line of reason, one might assume that Urd simply stayed in the sun too long before appearing on that cover of *AX*. As far as *Drakuun* is concerned, we might be interested in publishing the rest of it...that is, if Johji Manabe ends up finishing it. We'll just have to wait and see on that one. And finally, we intend to publish Kenichi Sonoda's *Exaxxion* after his *Gunsmith Cats* series wraps up this year, and we intend to enjoy publishing it...so there! Expect the first issue around November.

Dear Enchantress,

Oh My Goddess! Besides a sweet romantic comedy with full of lovely characters, sometimes it grows into something else. Listen to this: "True happiness can only come from within. It cannot be given, even as a gift." [see *OMG!* Part IV #6 — Tim] Whoa! Is that wonderful, or what? I think Belldandy's the kindest and most loving character ever created. Like Urd said: "Belldandy, you're really something else, you know that?"

Well, it looks like all the manga artists I admire (Masamune Shirow, Kosuke Fujishima, Kenichi Sonoda, etc.) come from Dark Horse. "Dark Horse publishes the galaxy's greatest comics." Damn right!

Kari Rihihaki
Finland
kari.rihihaki@pp2.inet.fi

Thanks, Kari. It may seem self-congratulatory to print your letter, but hey, such an accolade from Finland cannot be denied!

Mabuhay!

Hello everybody! Whoa! This is the very first time I've written a letter to any comics or mags. Well, I've been reading *OMG!* for about 4 years and I enjoy every issue of it. Also, the great artwork of Fujishima really inspires me, especially PEORTH!! YES!! PEORTH! PEORTH! PEORTH!

To all the staff of *OMG!*, you all did a good job publishing this comic. To tell you the truth, *OMG!* is the very first manga that I've bought. Sssshhhh...don't tell that to anyone (laughs!). [Oops, guess we let the cat out of the bag — MikeH!]

Ludwig M. Sacramento
Philippines
lockheart@edsamail.com.ph

You know what? It's crazy how many international letters we get. Finland, Hungary, the Philippines. Wow. You are all such great international people. Everyone, from all nations, come together under *Oh My Goddess!* and unite the planet. World peace is attainable if we all follow the teachings of Belldandy. Okay, I admit that sounds zany, but, in truth, if everyone practiced Belldandy's instinctual behavior, the planet would be better, would it not?

Dear Dark Horse Comics,

I absolutely love *Oh My Goddess!: Ninja Master*. I would like to know where I could find *Adventures of the Mini-Goddesses* in my area. It's kinda hard, because I hardly have any time to look. And don't worry, because I'm over eight years old. I'm twelve.

Alexandra Schroeder
McAllen, TX

Well, Alexandra, Diamond Comic Distributors has a great service for finding comic book stores in your area. All you have to do is dial 1-888-COMICBOOK (1-888-266-4226), or do like I did, and look online at <http://csls.diamondcomics.com/>. Using the online version, I found what seems to be a great store called Myth Adventures at 4617 North 10th St. They can special order that book for you, which will be reprinted soon. And while you're there, you can even buy a skateboard to get home in cool style. Just remember to wear a helmet and pads!

Dear Sir or Madam,

Hello! I'd like to say that your publishing business is wonderful! I just got my first manga from your company. Quite interesting, I must say. The manga I bought was *Oh My Goddess!: The Queen of Vengeance*. Nice job on the translating. I'm also hoping to get the next

manga issue of *Oh My Goddess!* I'm sending this letter to compliment you on your high quality publishing and manga. Thank you very much for your time.

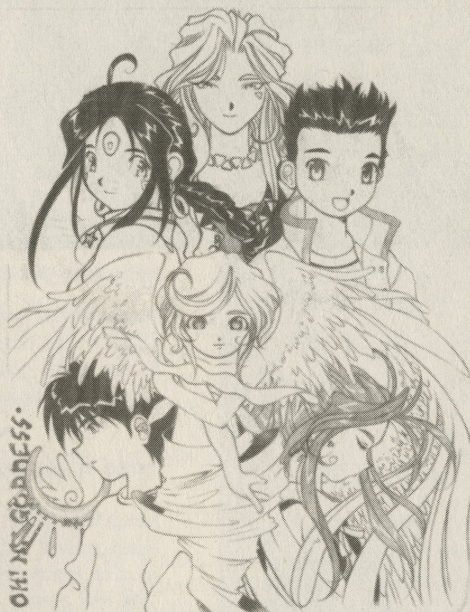
Dez Deschenie
Farmington, NM

Hey, Dez. Welcome to the magic world of *Oh My Goddess!* As you may be able to tell already, we have a wonderful community of worldwide fans reading *Oh My Goddess!*: girls, boys, women, and men. Maybe even monkeys! You can join the pen-pal list and write to folks from all over the Earth. Or, you can sit back and wait for the fun to hit every month. Make new friends, practice your art, and whenever you find yourself in a tough spot, remember to ask yourself, "What Would Belldandy Do?"

Stay cool this summer!
— enchantresses Tim EG and MikeH!

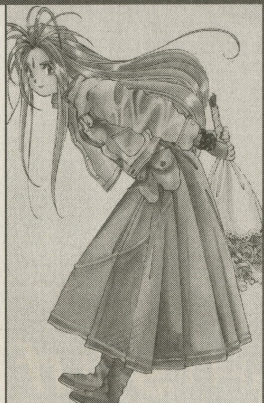
Fan Art

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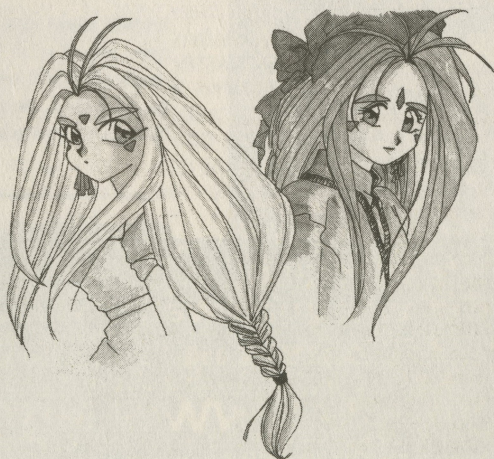


"Childhood's End" crew by Tran Nguyen • Hephzibah, GA

Next Issue



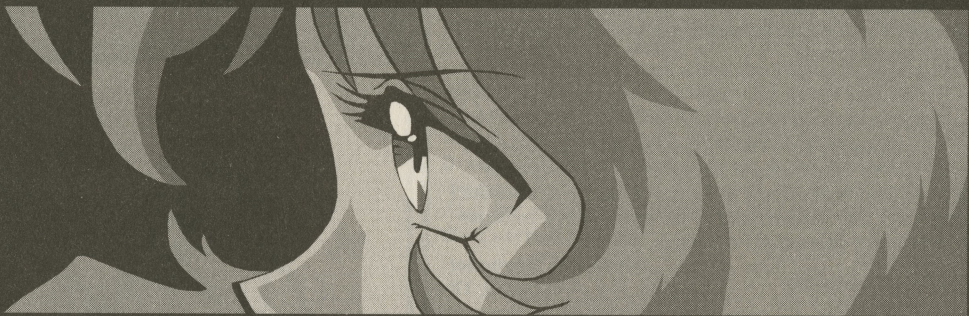
"Hand in Hand" part 2 of 2: Some people get hangovers after a night of drunken revelry, but what happens when a goddess faces the ramifications of a post-intoxication situation? Let's just say that wishes made on lemonade would not be as sour, but the sweetness of this goddess is the crux of her power. On sale May 30!



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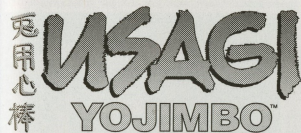
HORSEPOWER

STAN SAKAI, WHAT A GUY!



In this industry of tight deadlines, neurotic perfectionists, and empty promises from media hustlers, working with a humble professional can make an editor feel, if just for a moment, like the job is fun and easy. Stan Sakai is a rare breed of artist. Born in Kyoto, Japan, Stan moved to Hawaii with his family when he was two. While studying art at the University of Hawaii, Stan met aspiring cartoonists, Dennis Fujitake and Gary Kato. The two encouraged him to pursue work in comics, resulting in a long and satisfying career, most of it writing and drawing *Usagi Yojimbo* comics for such publishers as Fantagraphics, Mirage, and of course Dark Horse Comics. One thing people don't realize is that Stan has been involved in professional comics for a longer period of time as a letterer. Aside from lettering his own comics, Stan has been lettering Sergio Aragonés' *Groo the Wanderer*, and even letters the syndicated *Spider-Man* weekly strip. But, obviously, Stan's forte is his detailed, expressive art and masterful, engaging storytelling. As *Usagi Yojimbo* has developed, Stan has touched the lives of many and brought numerous new fans to comics, banking on Usagi's stints with the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and publishing a comic that appeals to a cross section of ages and backgrounds.

So, when the honorable bunny hits a landmark, we stand up and pay attention. Coming in July, it's *Usagi Yojimbo* #50. That's 50 great issues of *Usagi Yojimbo* published since Stan brought us the series in 1994. In honor of this event, I took it upon myself to ask Stan a few questions about his experiences:



Do you feel that this 50th issue is a landmark for you and Usagi?

The Dark Horse *UY* #50 will be his 111th issue. It's not any more of a landmark than any other issue. I try to tell a good story in every issue.

How much longer do you foresee creating *Usagi Yojimbo* comics?

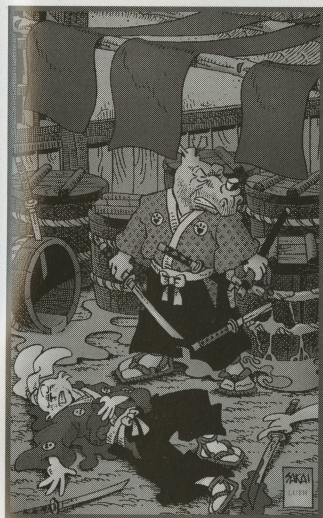
I've got story arcs already plotted that could easily take me into the next three years or so. I enjoy working with Usagi and his world. It seems that the more I know these characters the more story possibilities come to me.

Are there predominant sources for your ideas, such as movies, novels, or history books?

My storytelling is influenced more by films than comics. As for sources of ideas, they come from anywhere — reading, traveling, casual research, watching TV, sketching. As my interests change, so do my stories. I have done historical epics as well as fantasies, from political intrigue to whodunit mysteries. But my biggest motivation for my stories is my editor, Diana, because I know if I don't have an issue in her hands by deadline she's gonna come after me!

What are your favorite things about working in the comics industry?

Because *Usagi* is creator-owned, I get to tell stories the way I want without interference and without it being filtered through the assembly line method used by most comics publishers. It would be very frustrating for me to work on *Usagi* with collaborators. We just could not share the same vision for the character.



In addition to *Usagi Yojimbo* #50, July will also see the release of the *Dark Horse Maverick 2001* annual, featuring the fabulous rendition of Usagi by Frank Miller pictured here. July is Dark Horse's unofficial *Usagi* month. Pick up an issue and find out why no other animal has ever been able to defeat the irrepressible samurai bunny, and why Stan has been able to keep at it for so long.

Don't stop believing. Hold on to that feeling!
— Tim Ervin-Gore
appreciative assistant editor

Usagi Yojimbo™ & © 2001 Stan Sakai.

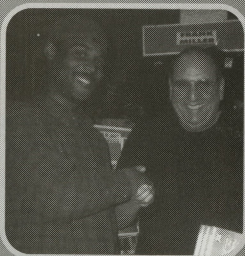


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